PEACE MAKER鐵
Nanae Chrono Presents
黒乃奈々絵
クロガネ
2

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難雨雪声縄

Disaster

第六話 難 (だいろくわ なん)

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IN OCTOBER OF THE 1ST YEAR OF GENJI (1864), ITOU OOKURA AND SEVEN OTHERS JOINED THE SHINSENGUMI.
THE ADDITION OF ITOU AND THE OTHERS REJUVENATED THE SHINSENGUMI FOR A SECOND TIME.
ガヤ
ガヤガヤ
OUR RECRUITMENT IN EDO
HAS QUITE EXCEEDED OUR EXPECTATIONS.

TO THE COMRADES WHO PLEDGE THEIR LOYALTY TO THE EMPEROR AND THE BAKUFU, A WELCOME!
ITOU-DONO WILL NOW SAY A FEW WORDS ON BEHALF OF THE NEW MEMBERS.
IT IS INDEED MY GREAT HONOUR

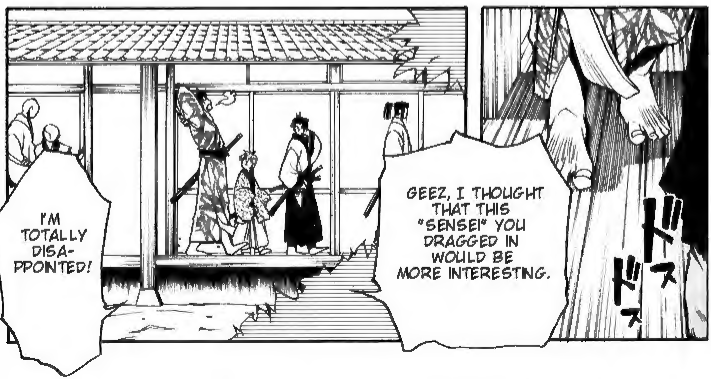
すっ
TO MARK THE OCCASION, I SHALL ADOPT THIS YEAR'S ETO-"KINOERE"
TO JOIN THE SHINSENGUMI. THIS WILL BE THE MOST REMARKABLE YEAR IN MY LIFE!

NOTE: 'ETO' MEANS CHINESE LUNAR SYSTEM.

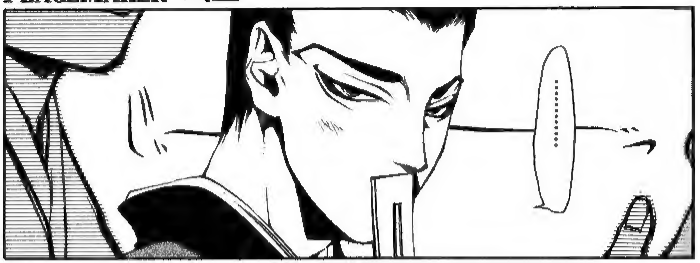
Note: "Kashi" is in the same Kanji characters as "kinoene". Kashi is closer to the original Chinese pronunciation.

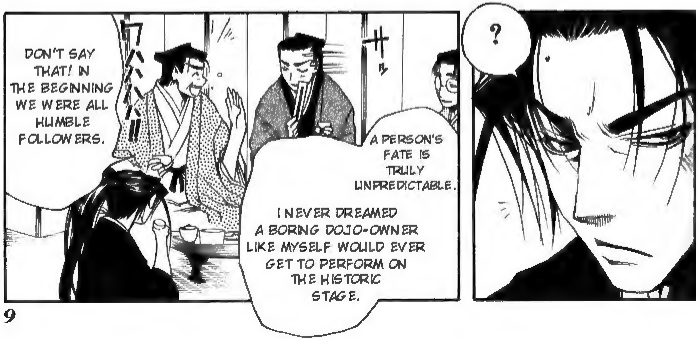
IDIOT! HEISUKE, ARE YOU DRUNK OR SOMETHING?
NAW, RELAX! IT'S TIME TO PARTY!
YAMANAMI-SAN, SINCE YOU'RE TRAINED IN THE SAME SWORD STYLE, WHY DON'T YOU MAKE A SPEECH?
ME? SPARE ME PLEASE!
CALM DOWN HEISUKE . . . .
HA HA HA HA

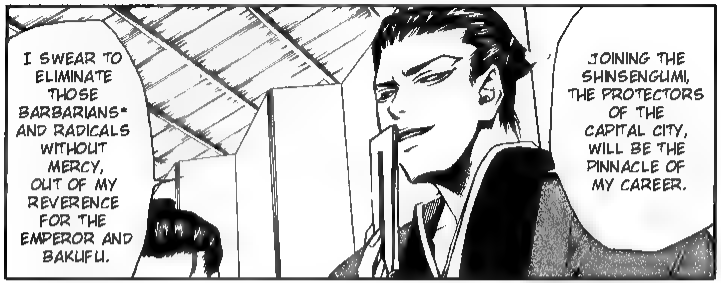
!!!


I'M TOTALLY DISA-PPOINTED!
GEEZ, I THOUGHT THAT THIS "SENSEI" YOU DRAGGED IN WOULD BE MORE INTERESTING.
ドズ
ドズ

HE ISN'T FASCINATING AT ALL!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M SAYING: DULL!!
WHY'S THAT? HE LOOKS SMART AND HANDSOME.
OH YEAH? HOW CAN YOU BE SURE?
HOW CAN HE NOT INSPIRE FASCINATION WITH THAT FORM?
HELLO... WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
WAS THAT THE ONLY REASON YOU BROUGHT HIM IN ?
HEISUKE !
He He
YOU SHOULD DISCOVER HIS EXOTIC SIDE ASAP
WHAT IF HE IS?!
THERE WON'T BE ANY PROBLEMS AS LONG AS HE'S NOT INTERESTED IN YOU!
DON'T SWEAT IT.




DON'T SAY THAT! IN THE BEGINNING WE WERE ALL HUMBLE FOLLOWERS.
A PERSON'S FATE IS TRULY UNPREDICTABLE.
I NEVER DREAMED A BORING DOJO-OWNER LIKE MYSELF WOULD EVER GET TO PERFORM ON THE HISTORIC STAGE.
?


I SWEAR TO ELIMINATE THOSE BARBARIANS* AND RADICALS WITHOUT MERCY, OUT OF MY REVERENCE FOR THE EMPEROR AND BAKUFU.
JOINING THE SHINSENGUMI, THE PROTECTORS OF THE CAPITAL CITY, WILL BE THE PINNACLE OF MY CAREER.

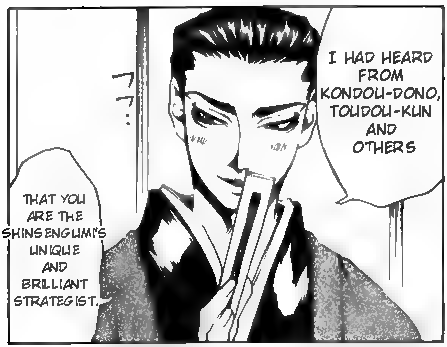
PLEASE PROVIDE US AND THE BAKUFU WITH YOUR STRATEGIC BRILLIANCE
.....!!
.....
THAT WAS SO TOUCHING!
Geez

I SHALL FORGE AHEAD FEARLESSLY IN SERVICE TO MY COUNTRY, UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE KYOKUCHOU KONDOU
ITOU -DONO.....

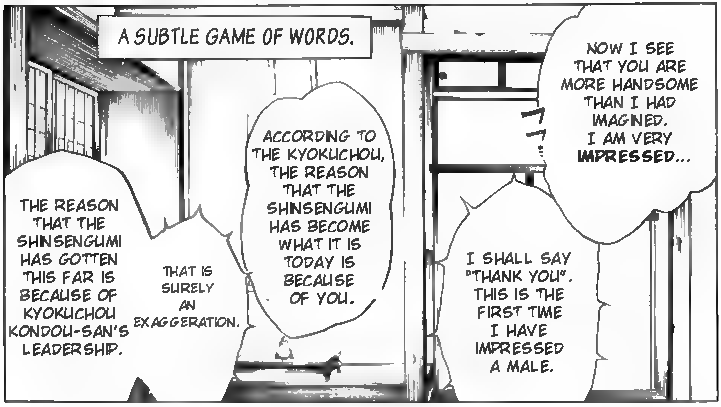
WE'RE OLD COMRADES. WE WERE ALL AT THE IKEDAYA INCIDENT.
FU FU FU
MAY I CHANGE THE SUBJECT? ALL THE CAPTAINS HERE ARE VERY DISTINGUISHED.

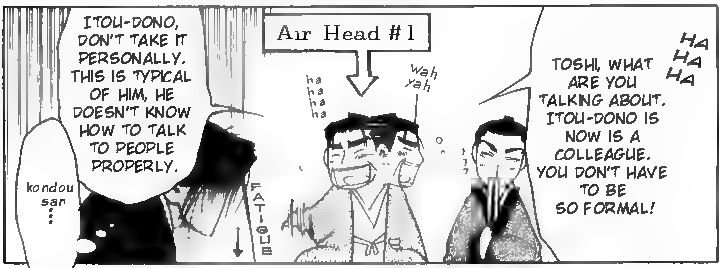
?
.....?

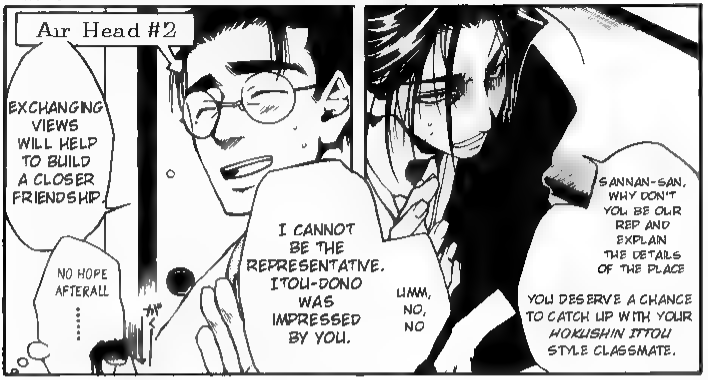
THAT NONSENSE AGAIN?
……
ﾌﾌﾌ
ｶﾊﾊﾊﾊｯ!!
BUT YOU WON'T HEAR ME MENTION ANYTHING ABOUT MASCULINE AFFECTION!!
IT IS NICE TO HAVE SOME HANDSOME MEN AROUND.
THERE ARE SO MANY MATURE AND HANDSOME MEN AMONG YOU!
IT CAN'T BE?
ﾊｯ…
……
HIJITAKA -DONO!


I HAD HEARD FROM KONDOU-DONO, TOUDOU-KUN AND OTHERS
フフ…
THAT YOU ARE THE SHINSENGUMI'S UNIQUE AND BRILLIANT STRATEGIST.

AH!?
YES, WHAT IS IT?


A SUBTLE GAME OF WORDS.
NOW I SEE THAT YOU ARE MORE HANDSOME THAN I HAD IMAGINED. I AM VERY IMPRESSED...
フフ…
ACCORDING TO THE KYOKUCHOU, THE REASON THAT THE SHINSENGUMI HAS BECOME WHAT IT IS TODAY IS BECAUSE OF YOU.
THE REASON THAT THE SHINSENGUMI HAS GOTTEN THIS FAR IS BECAUSE OF KYOKUCHOU KONDOU-SAN'S LEADERSHIP.
THAT IS SURELY AN EXAGGERATION.
I SHALL SAY "THANK YOU". THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I HAVE IMPRESSED A MALE.


ITOU-DONO, DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY. THIS IS TYPICAL OF HIM. HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO TALK TO PEOPLE PROPERLY.
Air Head #1
hahaha
wah yah
HA HA HA
TOSHI, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT. ITOU-DONO IS NOW IS A COLLEAGUE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO FORMAL!
kondou san…
FATIGUE


Air Head #2
EXCHANGING VIEWS WILL HELP TO BUILD A CLOSER FRIENDSHIP.
NO HOPE AFTERALL
I CANNOT BE THE REPRESENTATIVE. ITOU-DONO WAS IMPRESSED BY YOU.
UMM, NO, NO
SANNAN-SAN, WHY DON'T YOU BE OUR REP AND EXPLAIN THE DETAILS OF THE PLACE
YOU DESERVE A CHANCE TO CATCH UP WITH YOUR HOKUSHIN ITTOU STYLE CLASSMATE.

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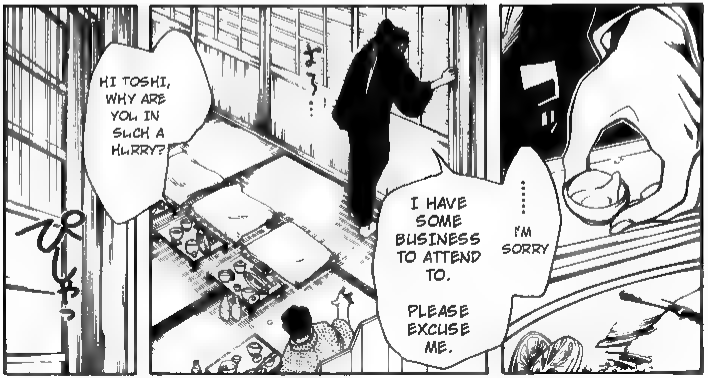
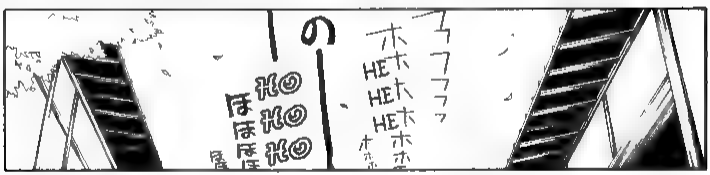
ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ
FU FU FU FU

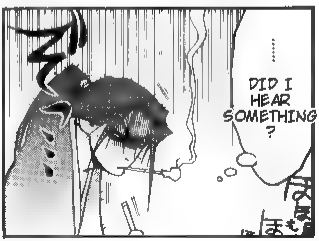

HI TOSHI, WHY ARE YOU IN SUCH A HURRY?
ぴゃっ
I HAVE SOME BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO.
PLEASE EXCUSE ME.
I'M SORRY

SORRY, ITOU -DONO, HE DOES NOT LOOK TOO GOOD TODAY.
I DID NOT EXPECT HIM TO BE SOOOO SHY.
WELL, KONDOU -DONO
I SHALL EXCUSE MYSELF AS WELL.
I WILL LOOK AROUND A BIT.
UMM, IN THAT CASE, EVERYBODY IS DISMISSED.
HIJITAKA TOSHIZOU
HE EMBODIES THE UNIQUE STYLE OF THE EDO MAN BY HIS PETULANCE,
THIS MAN HAS EXCEEDED MY EXPECTATIONS.

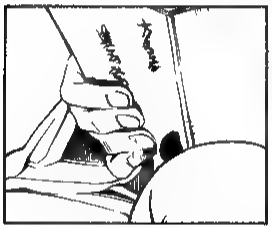
FROM NOW ON, THINGS ARE GOING TO BE INTERESTING.
THE SHINSENGUMI
I SHALL FIND OUT WHAT IS GOING ON WITH...


フフフ
ホホホホホホ
HE HE HE
の
KO KO KO

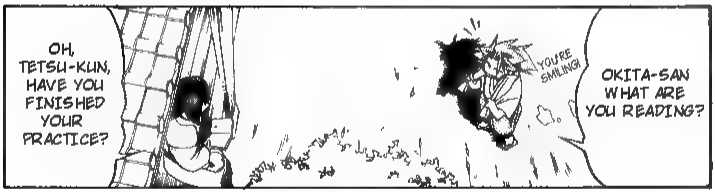
DON'T GIVE ME THOSE FACES!
THAT GUY LIKES HANDSOME OLDER MEN!
ALTHOUGH THERE ARE THE OCCASIONS EXCEPTIONS!
YEAH
COULD'VE MENTIONED IT EARLIER

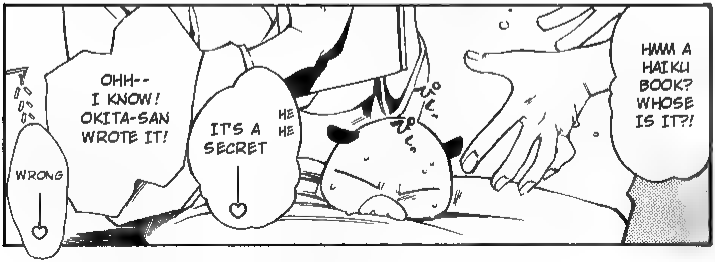

DID I HEAR SOMETHING?

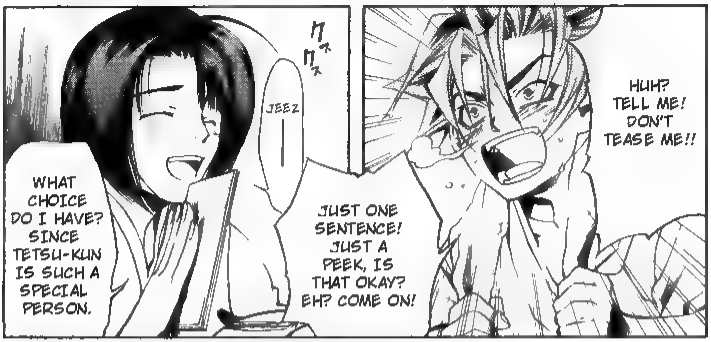
ザワ
ザワザワ
WOAH, YEAH!!
あはは、
THAT'S COLD!!
ICHIMURA, TAKE CARE OF THOSE INJURIES, DON'T GET TOO WET.
OTHERWISE YOU'LL GET AN INFECTION!
OKAY, OKAY, THANKS Y'ALL!



OKITA -SAN
.....

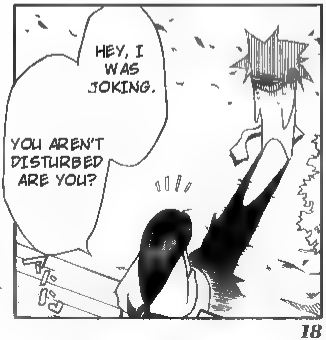

OH, TETSU-KUN, HAVE YOU FINISHED YOUR PRACTICE?
YOU'RE SMILING!
OKITA-SAN WHAT ARE YOU READING?

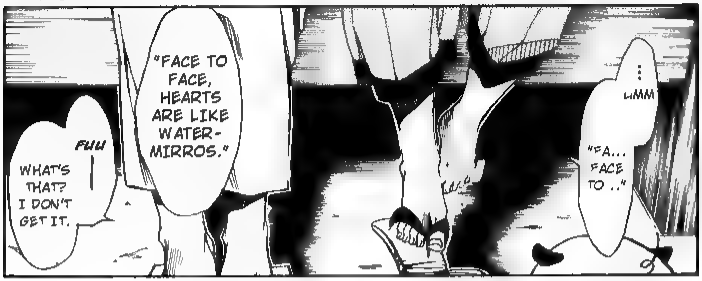

OHH-- I KNOW! OKITA-SAN WROTE IT!
WRONG
IT'S A SECRET
HE HE
HMM A HAIKU BOOK? WHOSE IS IT?!


WHAT CHOICE DO I HAVE? SINCE TETSU-KUN IS SUCH A SPECIAL PERSON.
JEEZ
JUST ONE SENTENCE! JUST A PEEK, IS THAT OKAY? EH? COME ON!
HUH? TELL ME! DON'T TEASE ME!!

YOU CANNOT ACCIDENTALLY LEAK ANY INFORMATION.
OR ELSE YOU WILL LOSE YOUR HEAD.
TO BE TRUTHFUL, THESE ARE OUR ORGANIZATION'S TOP-SECRET DOCUMENTS. THEY ARE ENCRYPTED.

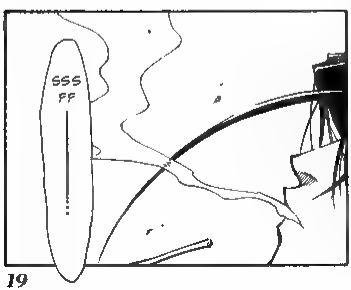
A MOMENT LATER

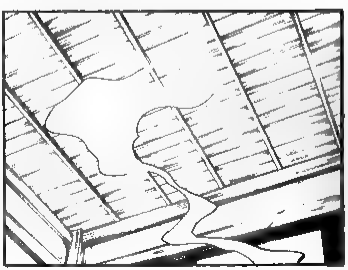



"FACE TO FACE, HEARTS ARE LIKE WATER-MIRROS."
FUU
WHAT'S THAT? I DON'T GET IT.
HMM
"FA... FACE TO.."

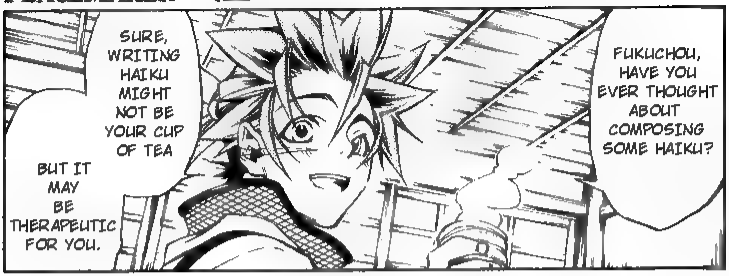
THERE MUST BE A DEEPER MEANING!
A PLUM CAN'T BE NOT-A-PLUM EVEN AFTER MANY YEARS!
INTERESTING!
AH
WHAT'S THIS?
"A SEASON OF PLUM BLOSSOM. PLUM IS STILL PLUM."

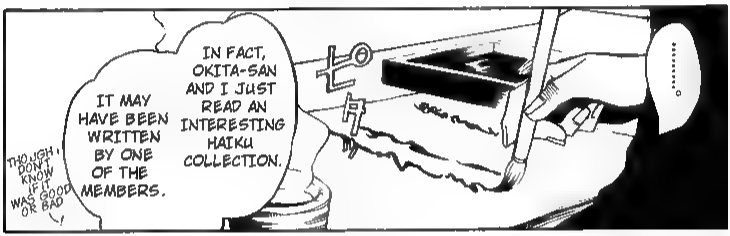
THIS MUST BE
WHICH? THIS ONE?
WHAT'S "NORTH OF WATER"

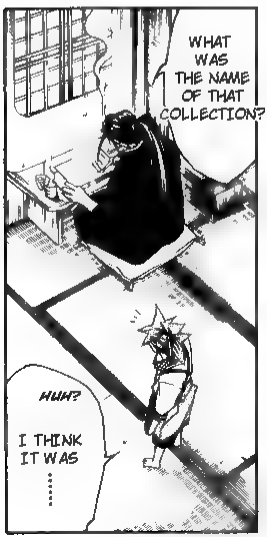

SSS FF



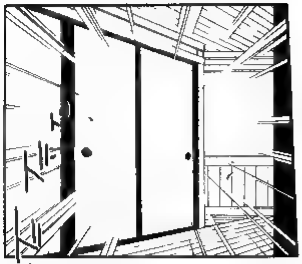
HUUU
SO MUCH SMOKE!
THE ROOM IS SO FOGGY!!
SHUT UP, THIS IS MY ROOM.
CAN YOU NOT OPEN THE SCREEN DOOR WHEN YOU SMOKE!?
FUKUCHOU YOUR TEA IS READY!
OH
MMM
NOTHING.
FUKUCHOU, IS ANYTHING WRONG?
WHAT IS WRONG?
SOME-THING WOULD HAVE BEEN WRONG IF I DID
I HEARD, FUKUCHOU, THAT YOU DIDN'T GET ALONG WITH HIM AT ALL!
OK I SEE. IT MUST BE THOSE NEW GUYS, ESPECIALLY THAT ITOU-PERSON.

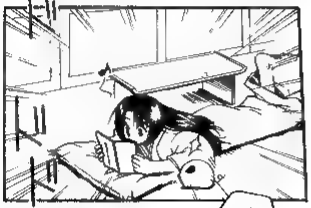

FUKUCHOU, HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT COMPOSING SOME HAIKU?
SURE, WRITING HAIKU MIGHT NOT BE YOUR CUP OF TEA
BUT IT MAY BE THERAPEUTIC FOR YOU.


……。
IN FACT, OKITA-SAN AND I JUST READ AN INTERESTING HAIKU COLLECTION.
IT MAY HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY ONE OF THE MEMBERS.
THOUGH I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS GOOD OR BAD


WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THAT COLLECTION?
HUH?
I THINK IT WAS
……

……
ICHI-MURA.

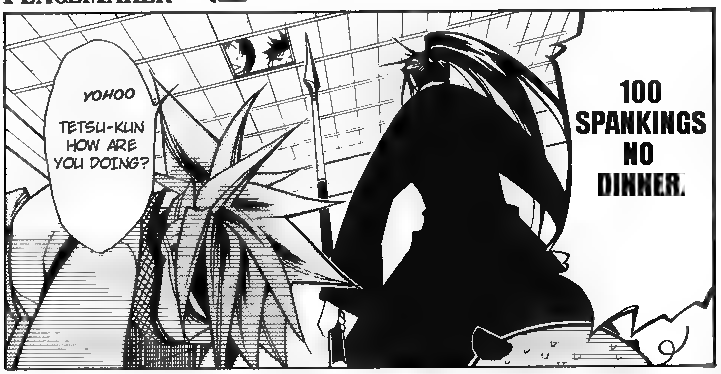




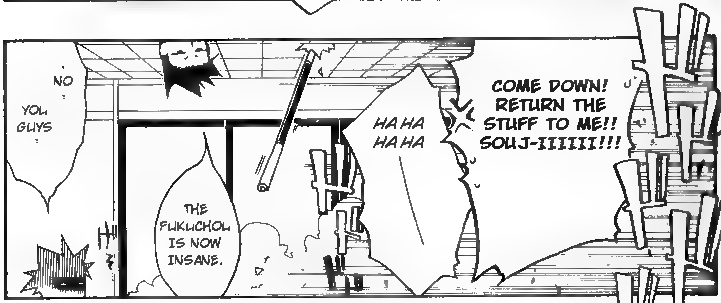
"HOU..."
なんだ?ヤー?

SOU
!!
SHIT. HE ESCAPED SO FAST!!
SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED
SOU
OKAY, STOP YELLING!!
YOU ARE DISTURBING THE NEIGHBOURS HIJIITAKA-SAN!
COME. OUT. IMM...E... DIATE...LY!!
THE AUTHOR OF THE HAIKU MIGHT BE
YOU, SOUJI !!
HMM BY THAT REACTION

YAMASAKI-KUN YOU HAVE JOINED HIM
WHATEVER, LISTEN TO ME!
DON'T MENTION IT
HAD A LITTLE HELP. YAMASAKI-SAN WAS PASSING OVER MY HEAD AT THE TIME.
YOU'RE THERE-- HOW DID YOU GET UP THERE?!
Here
I THOUGHT SOMEONE WAS ATTACKING US!
IF YOU GIVE IT BACK NOW, I WILL SPARE YOU
GIVE THAT THING BACK TO ME
I FEEL YOUR FRUSTRATION, BUT PLEASE DO NOT ORDER "SEPPUKU".
FU... FUKUCHOU!!
STOP JOKING !!
YOU WANT TO BE PUNISHED!?
NO, IT'S MINE.


YOHOO
TETSU-KUN HOW ARE YOU DOING?
100 SPANKINGS NO DINNER.

JA! I'M LEAVING!
FUKUCHOU, PLEASE REMEMBER I AM HERE TOO.
IF YOU WILL NOT RETURN IT TO ME, I SHALL MAKE YOU
VERY WELL


NO
YOU GUYS
THE FUKUCHOU IS NOW INSANE.
HAHA HAHA
COME DOWN! RETURN THE STUFF TO ME!! SOUJ-IIIIII!!!

THE COLLECTION IS CURRENTLY ON DISPLAY AT THE HIJITAKA TOSHIZOU MUSEAM AT THE CITY OF HINO.

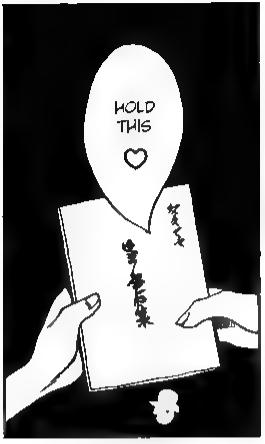
"THE HAIKU COLLECTION OF HOUGYOKU"

IT WAS THE HAIKU COLLECTION OF HIJIKATA TOSHIZOU'S. HE HAD COMPOSED THEM PRIOR TO HIS ARRIVAL TO THE CAPITAL. "HOUGYOKU" WAS HIJIKATA'S PENNAME.

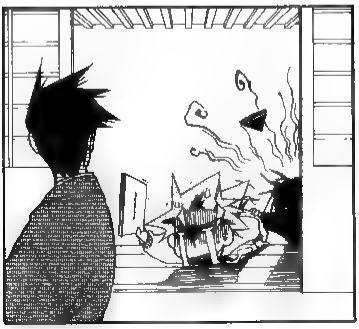
NO ONE GAVE YOU PERMISSION TO TAKE THOSE!!
HUH? DIDN'T YOU GIVE THEM TO ME?
WHO SAID IT WAS GIVEN?!
YEAH, YEAH HIJITAKA-SAN, ALL THE WORDS ARE FULL OF LOOVE.
HOW EMBARRASSING!
DO NOT TALK OR LAUGH!!

HERE, HEAR:
"DONE WITH CONFUSION, UNDONE WITH CONFUSION..."
DON'T RECITE!!!
WHAT……
HIJITAKA HAS GONE CRAZY……
OH?
I HAVEN'T SEEN TOSHI'S "FLYING RUN" FOR A LONG TIME
STOP THEM QUICKLY……
A MOMENT LATER
TETSU-KUN!
OKITA-SAN! ARE YOU OKAY?

Obitoさん!!
NO MATTER WHAT-- PLEASE TAKE THIS AND RUN AS FAST AS POSSIBLE!!


HOLD THIS ♡

……FUKU
……CHOU
COME BACK HOO



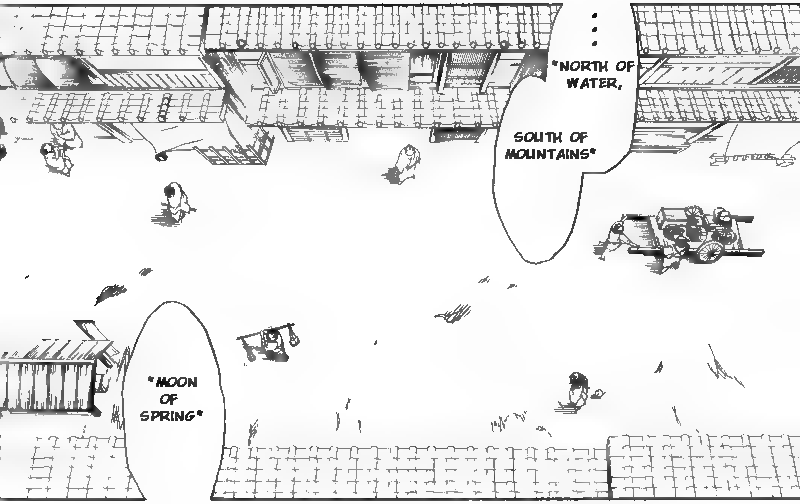
SU... SUSUMU ……

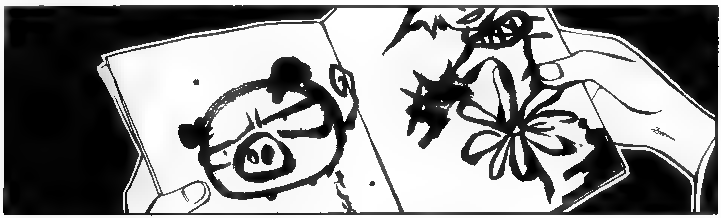
SU...

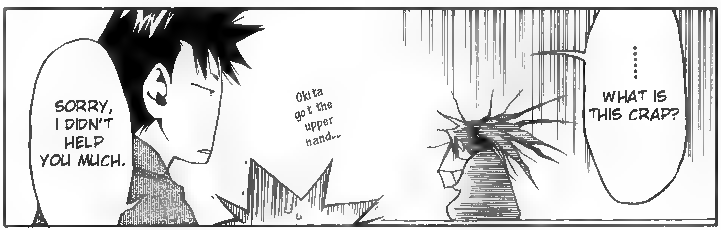
YOU TRAITOR !!
PLEASE. THIS IS YOURS.
TAKE A DEEP BREATHE
Puff
Puff
……
ギリ
BAD SUSUMU! YOU NOT ONLY BETRAYED ME BUT OKITA-SAN AS WELL!
AREN'T YOU THE SAME? YOU WHO BETRAYED YOUR MASTER …

WHAT A SCREW UP. I HAD THOUGHT TO SECRETLY KEEP IT FOR LIFE.
PERHAPS I SHOULD NOT HAVE SHOWN IT TO TETSU-KUN...?
OH.....!
THAT'S YAMANAMI -SAN.
THAT'S OKAY. I HAVEN'T SEEN THAT LOVABLE SIDE OF HIJIKATA-SAN FOR A LONG TIME!

……A SWORD!
A NEW SWORD?
パラ
……


"NORTH OF WATER, SOUTH OF MOUNTAINS"
"MOON OF SPRING"




WHAT IS THIS CRAP?
Okita got the upper hand...
SORRY, I DIDN'T HELP YOU MUCH.

WHAT IS IT?
?
LEAVE IT THERE.
SANNAN -SAN!

To be continued...

第七話
雨
Chapter 7:
Rain

Scanner: Fifya
Translator: Fifya
Text Editor: Rem
Editor: Crystal

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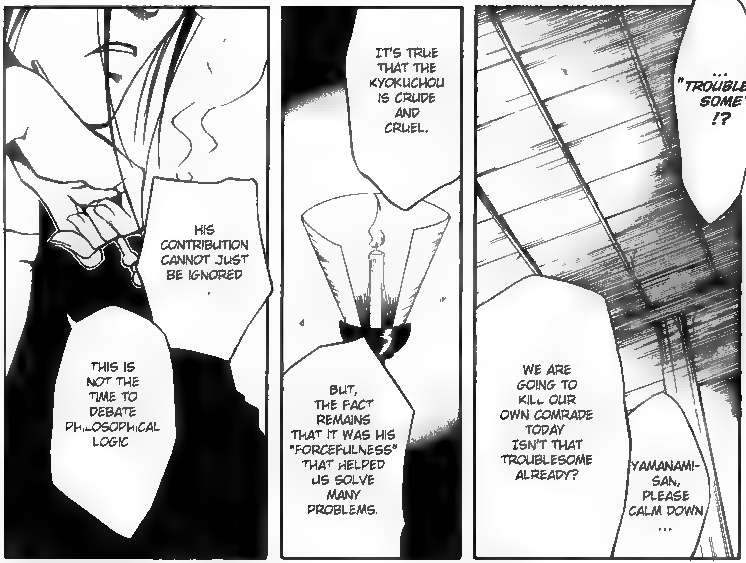
...
THE RAIN COULD STOP SOON
SOUJI AND I WILL ATTACK FROM THE GARDEN. THE REST IS UP TO YOU.
HMM
WE HAVE TO FINISH IT BEFORE THE MOON APPEARS.

[redacted] MATSUDAIRA KATAMORI-SAMA.
THE ORDER TO [redacted] KYOKUCHOU SERIZAWA KAMO OF THE SHINSENGUMI"

WE PLAYED THE DRINKING GAME AT DINNER. HE'S PROBABLY VERY DRUNK BY NOW.
DO WHAT WE ALWAYS DO.

IT WOULDBE UNREASONAB..E NOT TO SPARE THEM.
WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO SPARE THE WOMEN?
WOULD IT BE ...
THEY MAY RECOGNIZE OUR FRAMES AND IDENTIFY US.
THOSE WOMEN HAVE VISISTED THE COMPOUND AND MET US ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS.
THE CONSEQUENCES OF A BOTCHED ASSASSINATION ARE TROUBLESOME.
DO YOU KNOW IN WHICH ROOM SHE IS STAYING?
THAT WOMAN,
THERE IS ONE WHO JUST CAME TODAY
BUT,

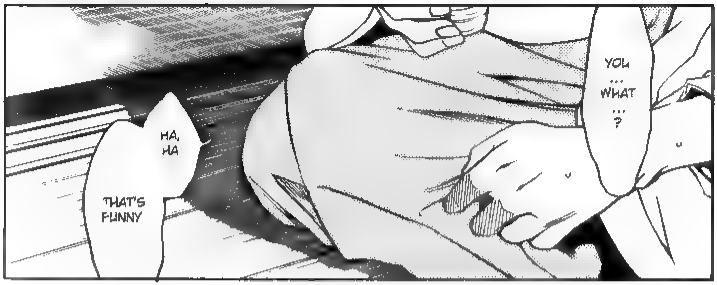

HIS CONTRIBUTION CANNOT JUST BE IGNORED
THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO DEBATE PHILOSOPHICAL LOGIC
IT'S TRUE THAT THE KYOKUCHOU IS CRUDE AND CRUEL.
BUT, THE FACT REMAINS THAT IT WAS HIS "FORCEFULNESS" THAT HELPED US SOLVE MANY PROBLEMS.
WE ARE GOING TO KILL OUR OWN COMRADE TODAY ISN'T THAT TROUBLESOME ALREADY?
YAMANAMI-SAN, PLEASE CALM DOWN ...
..."TROUBLE-SOME"!?

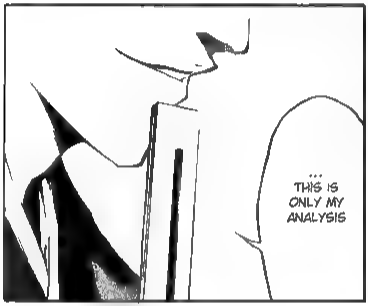
"USE IT WHEN IT'S USEFUL."
"GET RID OF IT WHEN IT'S AN OBSTACLE."

THAT IS THE ONLY LOGIC
... YAMANAMI-DONO?
IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT?

HA, HA, HA, HA
THE WAY YOU WERE LURED?
IT IS REALLY TOUDOU-KUN'S METHOD
YES.
IT IS A LITTLE STRANGE THAT HE HAS NOT CHANGED MUCH IN ALL THIS TIME.
MY APPOINTMENT TO COMMANDER TODAY MAY PROVOKE SOME GOSSIPS, LIKE "AN EASY RAISE" AND SO FORTH.
フッ…
DON'T WORRY!
YOU SHOULD HAVE THIS POSITION.
KYOKUCHOU KONDO HAS GREAT EXPECTATIONS FOR YOU.

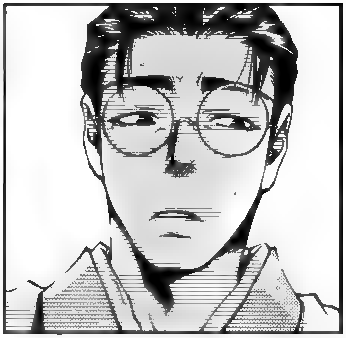
YOU SURELY HAVE THE ABILITIES.
THE POSTERITY OF THE SHINSENGUMI IS DEPENDING ON YOUR SERVICE.
PLEASE SERVE THE SHINSENGUMI WEL..
AFTER ALL..
?
?
WHY DID YOU SAY IT LIKE THAT?
I FELT AS IF THERE WAS A GAP BETWEEN YOU AND THE SHINSENGUMI, WAS THERE ONE?

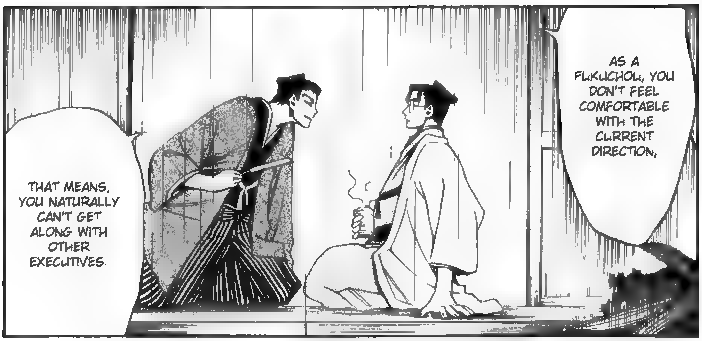

YOU... WHAT...?
HA, HA
THAT'S FUNNY

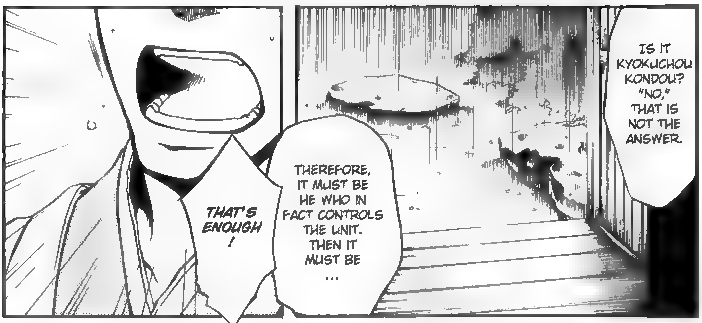

...THIS IS ONLY MY ANALYSIS

YOU HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT THE DIRECTION OF THE UNIT...
YOU DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE IN THE SHINSENGUMI
IN OTHER WORDS,

... AM I RIGHT?



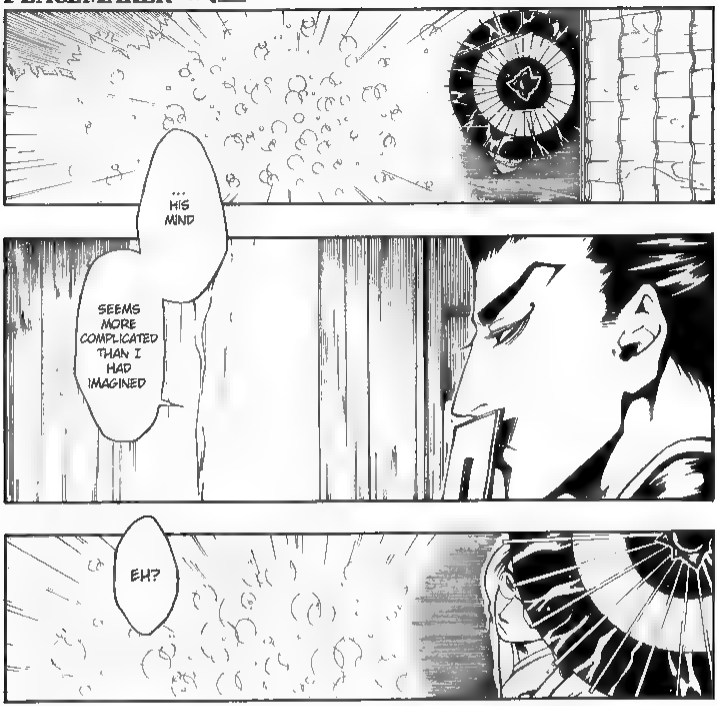

AS A FUKUCHOU, YOU DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH THE CURRENT DIRECTION.
THAT MEANS, YOU NATURALLY CAN'T GET ALONG WITH OTHER EXECUTIVES.

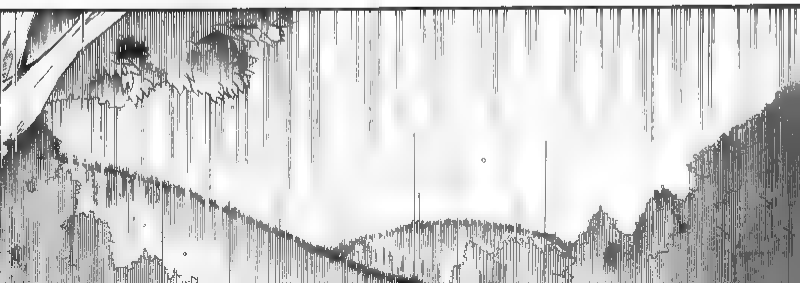

IS IT KYOKUCHOU KONDOU? "NO," THAT IS NOT THE ANSWER.
THEREFORE, IT MUST BE HE WHO IN FACT CONTROLS THE UNIT. THEN IT MUST BE ...
THAT'S ENOUGH!

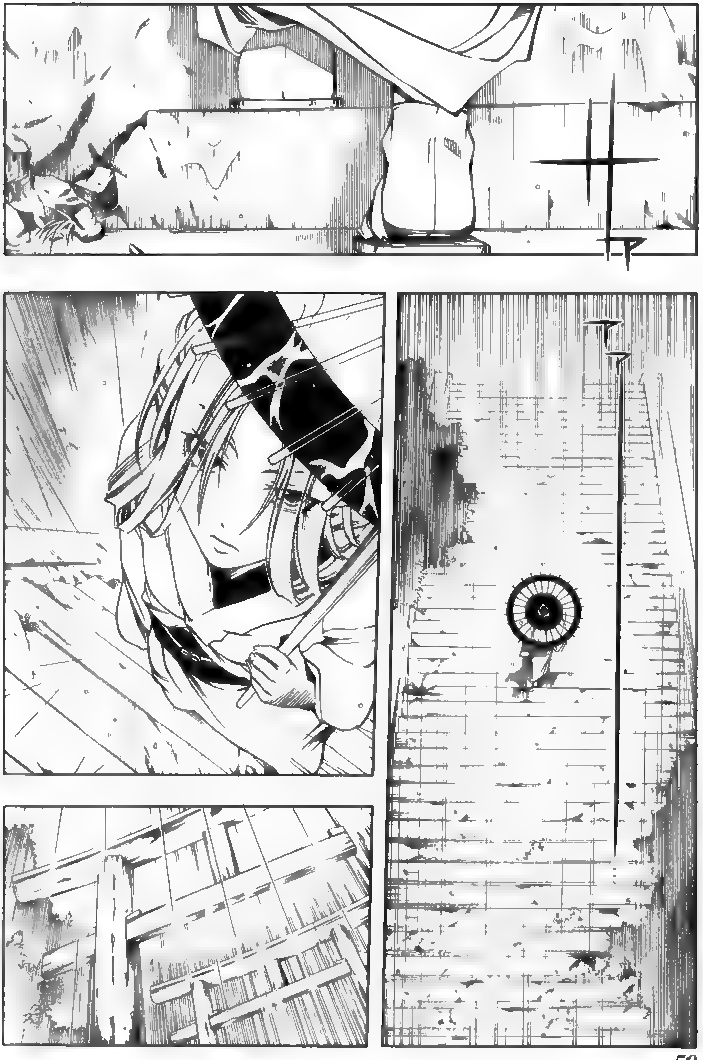
THE SHINSENGUMI IS AT A PRIME POSITION.
NO ONE ELSE CONTRIBUTES MORE EFFORT TO THE UNIT THAN HIJIKATA-KUN.
... IF THERE ARE ANY ISSUES,

I AM AT FAULT.

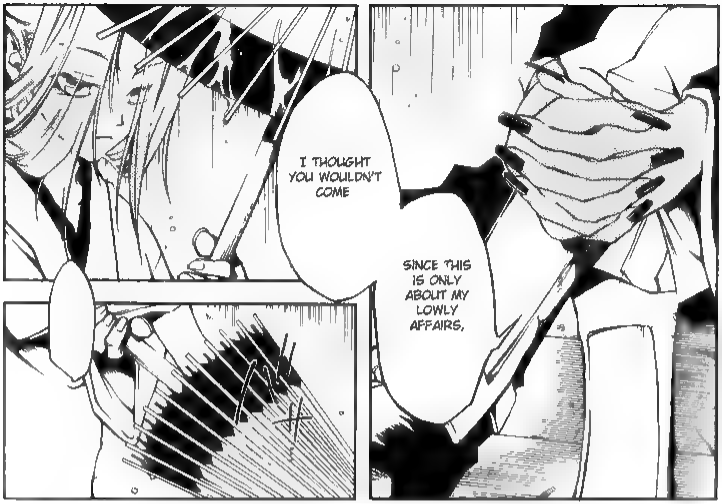
WOULD YOU PLEASE EXCUSE ME?

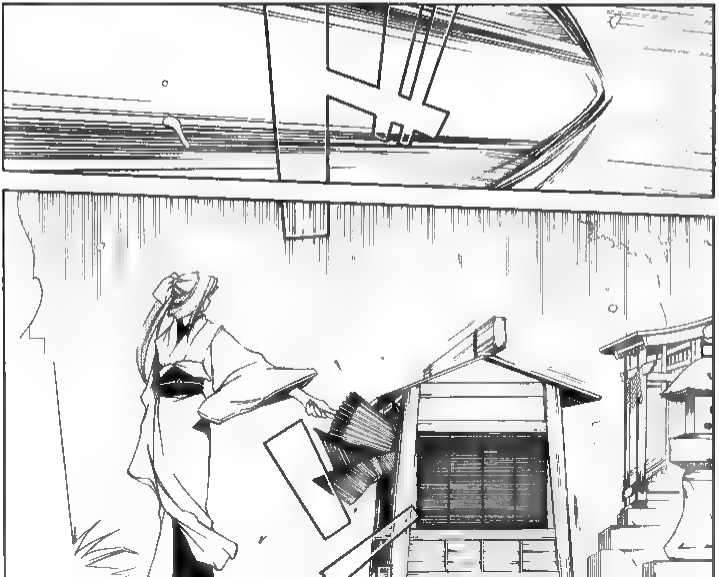

... HIS MIND
SEEMS MORE COMPLICATED THAN I HAD IMAGINED
EH?





THERE,
YOU FINALLY CAME.

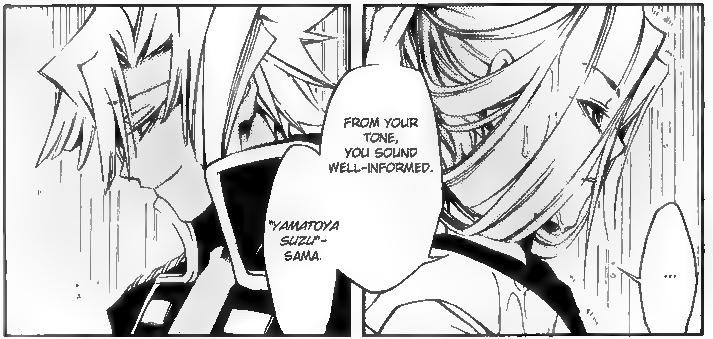

I THOUGHT YOU WOULDN'T COME
SINCE THIS IS ONLY ABOUT MY LOWLY AFFAIRS,

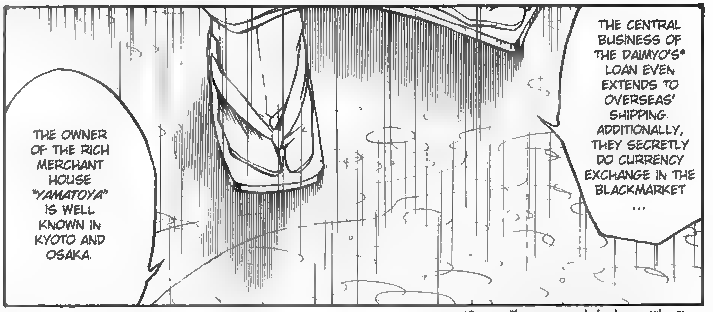


... YOUR AFFAIRS ALWAYS DISGUST ME.
IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY,
SEE ME DIRECTLY, BOY!
WHY ARE YOU ANGRY?
WE HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING.

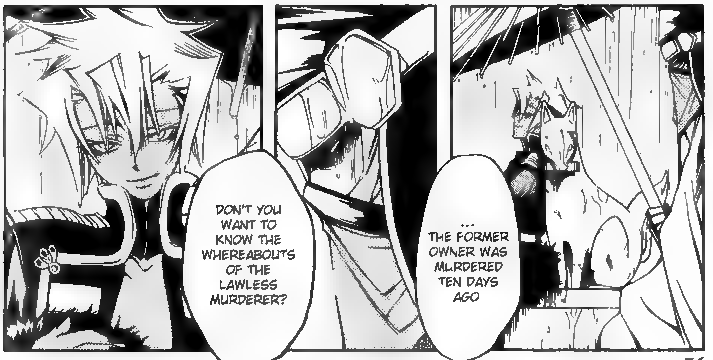
HA, HA, OR
YOU WERE JUST SCARED, PERHAPS?

LONG TIME NO SEE ♡
ANYWAY, IT SEEMS LIKE YOU AND "THAT CLIENT" ARE VERY COZY
DON'T I KNOW YOUR "REAL OCCUPATION"?
HM,
YOU STILL LOOK THE SAME.




THE OWNER OF THE RICH MERCHANT HOUSE "YAMATOYA" IS WELL KNOWN IN KYOTO AND OSAKA.
THE CENTRAL BUSINESS OF THE DAIMYO'S* LOAN EVEN EXTENDS TO OVERSEAS' SHIPPING. ADDITIONALLY, THEY SECRETLY DO CURRENCY EXCHANGE IN THE BLACKMARKET ...

*Daimyo. The samurai lord of a domain ("han")

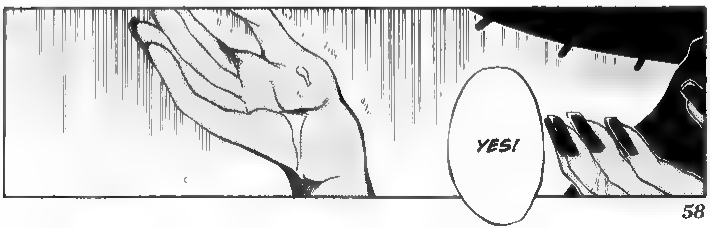


GEE,
HOW MAY I SERVE YOU TODAY?
FU, FU..
GOSSIP TRAVELS FAST, NE?...
...YOU CAME ONLY TO BUY MY INFORMATION?
FU, FU, FU...
HE, HE, HE
..?

I DON'T WANT ANYTHING!
NOTHING
NOTHING THAT I REALLY CARE ABOUT.

LISTEN. THE SHINSEGUMI, THE BAKUFU,
THE IMPERIAL REVERENCE,
THE DOWNFALL OF THE BAKUFU, I DON'T CARE ANYMORE

WHAT ABOUT CHOSHU?
DID YOU BURN THOSE BRIDGES TOO?


YES!

I CAN DO WHAT I WANT TO DO!

ピキッ

... WHAT
DO YOU WHAT TO DO?

I AM FREE!

COME ON, BRAIN.
WAIT A SECOND!
...WHAT YOU REALLY WANT...
I AM FED UP.
LET'S GO BACK, KNEE-PIT.
AS YOU WISH!

... ARE YOU SCARED?
SO FAR, I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING.

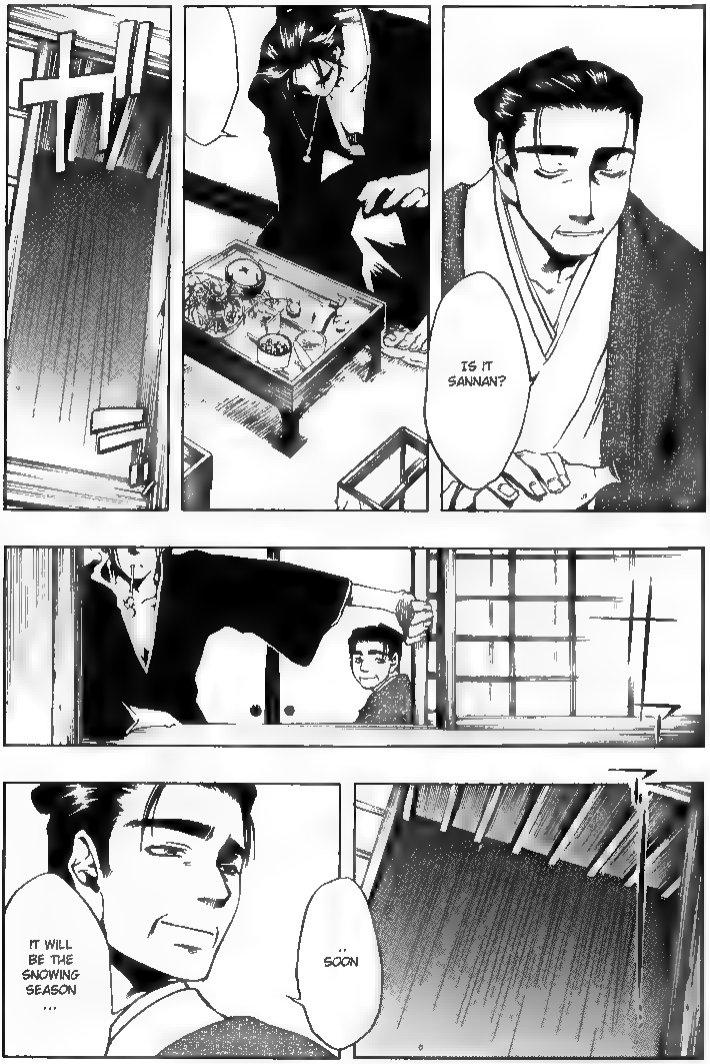
...
THERE, YOU JUST WATCH.
YOU, TOO, WILL BE WELL ENTERTAINED
YOU USELESS "EAT DRINK ONLY" -SAN ♡

STOP IT

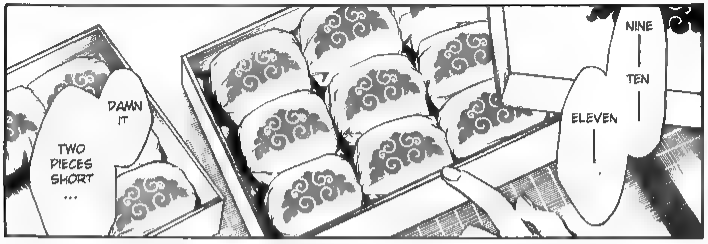
THAT HAS TO BE STOPPED ..
... YAMANAMI-SAN.

... THAT REALLY HURTS MY EYES!
IS THERE ANYBODY ELSE?
HUH? YOU MEAN ITOU-DONO?
?
THAT? HE IS A MALE, YET SLIM AND FAIR: QUITE PRETTY
STOP IT!
?
は
... HOW THE HECK CAN YOU SHAKE HIS HAND. WHAT DID YOU THINK?

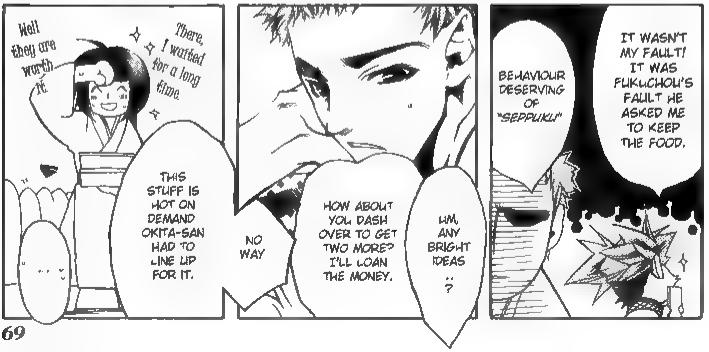
FIRST OF ALL, IT WAS STRANGE THAT HE ACTUALLY JOINED THE SHINSENGUMI.
I DON'T LIKE HIS IDEAL OF ONLY REVERING THE EMPEROR.
THAT'S OK. WE ALSO RESPECT THE EMPEROR ALONG WITH HELPING THE BAKUFU.
... YOU CAN SAY THAT, BUT ...
... TOSHI,
HONESTLY, ARE YOU WORRYING ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE?


IS IT SANNAN?
IT WILL BE THE SNOWING SEASON ...
.. SOON

BEFORE IT GETS TOO COLD,
SOUJI'S COLD HAS TO BE TAKEN CARE OF
YEAH.
... YES
HOW COME YOUR FAMILY'S FORMULA DOES NOT SEEM TO BE WORKING?
THE DAMN BRAT THREW IT AWAY BEHIND MY BACK A WHILE AGO.
HA, HA, HA, HA, HA
THAT PROVES HOW TASTELESS THE THING IS.
チリ
SFX: Chling


NINE
TEN
ELEVEN
DAMN IT
TWO PIECES SHORT ...

WE NEED FIFTEEN.
OH, NO! THE HECK !!
THEN, WHY DID YOU SECRETLY SNACK ON THOSE TOP QUALITY COOKIES?
THAT'S CALLED "SELF-DESTRUCTION".


Well they are worth it.
There, I worked for a long time.
THIS STUFF IS HOT ON DEMAND OKITA-SAN HAD TO LINE UP FOR IT.
NO WAY
HOW ABOUT YOU DASH OVER TO GET TWO MORE? I'LL LOAN THE MONEY.
HM, ANY BRIGHT IDEAS .. ?
BEHAVIOUR DESERVING OF "SEPPUKU"
IT WASN'T MY FAULT! IT WAS FUKUCHOU'S FAULT HE ASKED ME TO KEEP THE FOOD.

NO NEED FOR TEA ANYMORE
ICHIMURA,
YES, YAMAZAKI ...
NO OTHER WAY, I WONDER WHETHER BUYING OTHER KINDS ...
HUH? IT'S FINISHED ALREADY?
NO.
THE ORDER IS
"DO NOT DISTURB", PERIOD
!?

第八話 雪 SNOW

(だいはちわ) (ゆき)

Translator: Aatash
Editor: Fifay, Rem
Scanner: Fifay

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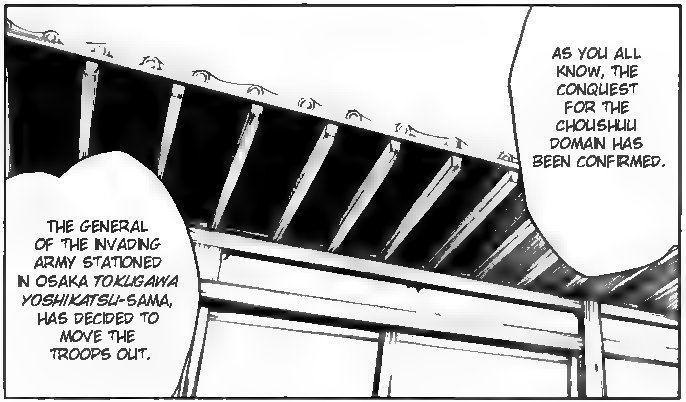
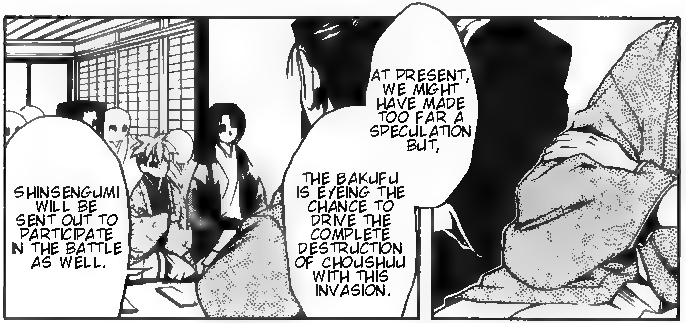
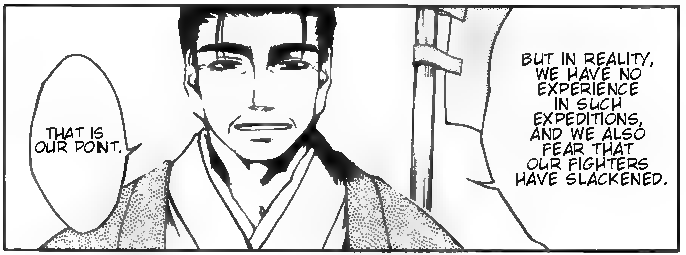
WE HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT

WELL THEN, THE REASON FOR ASSEMBLING EVERYONE HERE IS BECAUSE


AS YOU ALL KNOW, THE CONQUEST FOR THE CHOUSHUU DOMAIN HAS BEEN CONFIRMED.
THE GENERAL OF THE INVADING ARMY STATIONED IN OSAKA TOKUGAWA YOSHIKATSU-SAMA, HAS DECIDED TO MOVE THE TROOPS OUT.


AT PRESENT, WE MIGHT HAVE MADE TOO FAR A SPECULATION, BUT,
THE BAKUFU IS EYEING THE CHANCE TO DRIVE THE COMPLETE DESTRUCTION OF CHOUSHUU WITH THIS INVASION.
SHINSENGUMI WILL BE SENT OUT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BATTLE AS WELL.


BUT IN REALITY, WE HAVE NO EXPERIENCE IN SUCH EXPEDITIONS, AND WE ALSO FEAR THAT OUR FIGHTERS HAVE SLACKENED.
THAT IS OUR POINT.

軍中法度

一、役所を堅く守り、武法を乱すべからず、追って組頭の下知に随う可き事。

一、勝手方御賄の儀、一切停止の事。付、市場饗応不心得の儀を申すべからず。

一、倉庫一切妄りに禁制の事。

一、屯営に限らず宿舎之儀とも決して騒扇立すべからず。

一、私の遺恨ありとも、陣中に於て喧嘩口論仕間敷事。

一、士卒酒に乱酔を禁じ、組一体して抜き刀の用意心付べき事。

一、組頭討死に及び候時、其組衆その場に於て敵死を遂ぐべし。義し隊伍を離れ其元口論或は喧嘩等の事之儀は新撰組規律其外に随てこれを申渡すべく候、手て背候未練の働無之様相つむべき事。

一、脱走者に於ては組頭の外死骸引退く事をなさず。

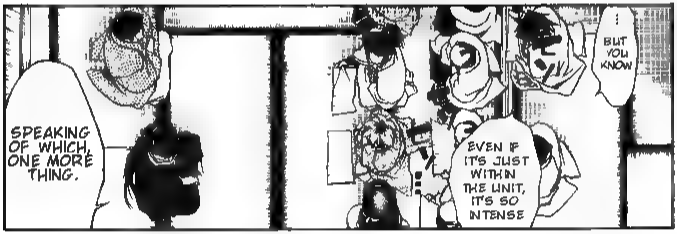
付、若その場を逃げず生捕を期すべき事。

NOTE: THIS IS THE SECOND SET OF CONDUCT CODES OF THE SHINSENGUMI "THE LAW OF MILITARY

ALTHOUGH BEING DEFEATED IN THE BATTLE OF HAMAGURIGO GATE AND THE BATTLE OF ITEKISEN,
NO, I DON'T GET THE GIST OF THIS AT ALL.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY WE CAN'T SPEAK OF SCARY THINGS OR OF BEAUTIFUL ONES EITHER!
DESPITE THEIR POOR CONDITION, WE DON'T KNOW HOW THE CHOUSHUU WILL RETALIATE IF CORNERED.
ALL THOSE [illegible] BE USED IN BATTLE.

* ITEKISEN - IN AUGUST OF 1865, THERE WAS A BATTLE BETWEEN CHOSHU AND THE ALLIANCE OF AMERICA, BRITON, FRANCE AND NETHERLAND

THE PHRASE "TRAPPED MICE MIGHT BITE A CAT" HAS MUCH MEANING.
PUT SOME THOUGHT INTO YOUR THINKING, OR YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH THE EXPEDITION.

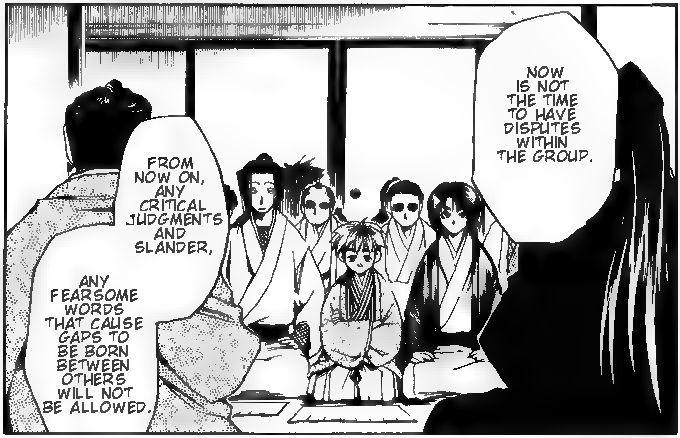

BUT YOU KNOW...
EVEN IF IT'S JUST WITHIN THE UNIT, IT'S SO INTENSE
SPEAKING OF WHICH, ONE MORE THING.

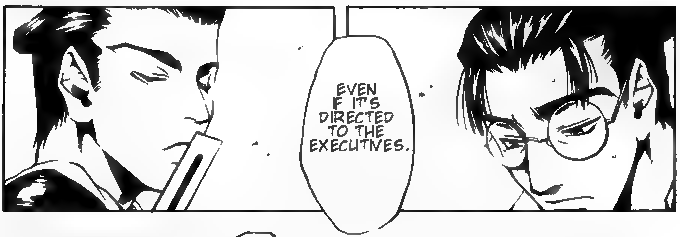
HUH !?
THERE ARE MORE?
IT'S ABOUT THE "SHINSEN GUMI COMPOUND".
ASIDE FROM IT BEING CRAMPED,
IF ANOTHER FIGHT OCCURS, WE CANNOT SPREAD OUT WELL ENOUGH.
THAT IS THE POINT.

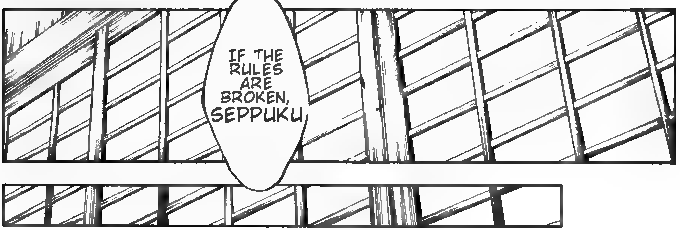
"NISHI HON GAN TEMPLE"
IS THE PLACE WE ARE PLANNING TO MOVE IN SOON.
NISHI HONGAN TEMPLE
THAT SPACIOUS ...!?
TO HAVE THE HEAD-QUARTER IN A TEMPLE ...
I OPPOSE TO IT, HIJIKATA -KUN!
PLEASE THINK ABOUT IT.
THERE MIGHT BE ACTS OF SEPPUKU AND PUNISHMENT COMMITTED IN THE COMPOUND.

TO KILL IN A SACRED AREA...!
"DO NOT TAKE LIVES" EH?
WHETHER IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT TEACHING OR NOT,
THOSE MONKS GAVE SANCTUARY TO THE FUGITIVE OF THE HAMAGURIGO GATE .. IT'S A GOOD CHANCE FOR THEM TO REFLECT ON THAT.
NO ...
.....
FU FU
TRULY "SHINSEN GUMI'S ONI".

YOU ARE MOST SKILLED IN
FORCING PEOPLE TO OBEY YOU ...
I WILL LISTEN TO "OPINIONS". BUT I WILL NOT STAND FOR "OBJECTIONS".
THAT IS ALL. EVERYTHING HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED.


NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO HAVE DISPUTES WITHIN THE GROUP.
FROM NOW ON, ANY CRITICAL JUDGMENTS AND SLANDER,
ANY FEARSOME WORDS THAT CAUSE GAPS TO BE BORN BETWEEN OTHERS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.


EVEN IF IT'S DIRECTED TO THE EXECUTIVES.

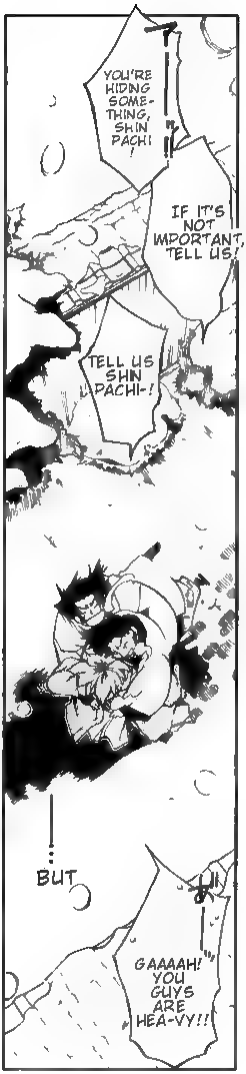

IF THE RULES ARE BROKEN, SEPPUKU.

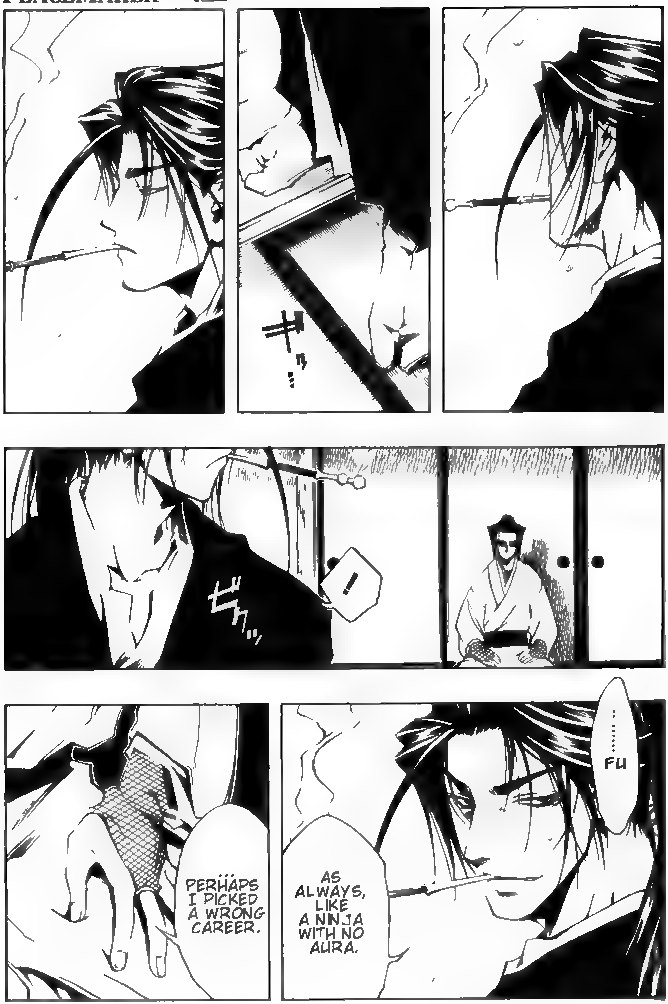
HA
AH
FUKUCHOU HAD THE MOST PERFECT TONE AGAIN TODAY
RIGHT?
THEN, WE HAD THE MOST ANNOYED TONE
TRULY, THE WORST FEELING.
I WONDER WHAT IT'S ABOUT, THAT AWKWARD PERFORMANCE.
POOR SANNAN-SAN WAS CHEWED ON SO HORRIBLY ...

PROBABLY TOWARDS ITOU AND COMPANY, FOR HIS SUSPICIOUS MOVEMENTS.
"THE UNITY OF KONDOU'S TEAM WILL NOT BE DESTROYED BY YOU" KIND OF WARNING...
THAT LAST ONE WAS A WARNING.
...NAA, SHINPAT TSUAN.
WHAT DID YOU MEAN "PERFORMANCE"...
NUH UH.
IT'S NOT IMPORTANT.

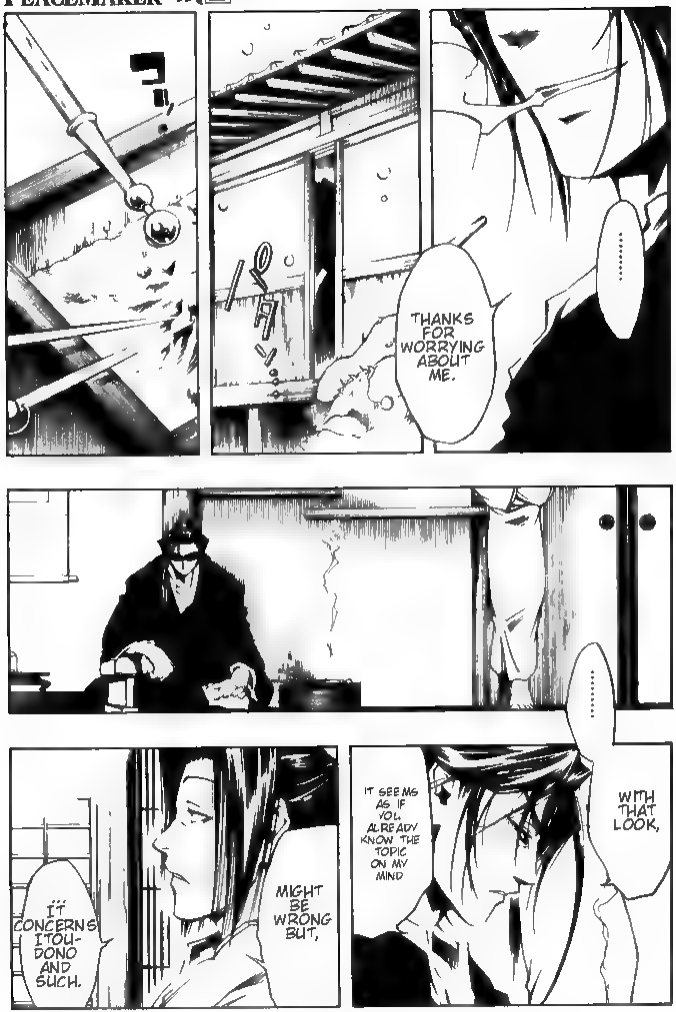
OUR BONDS

CAN IT REALLY BE RELIED ON?


YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING, SHIN PACHI!
IF IT'S NOT IMPORTANT, TELL US!
TELL US SHIN PACHI-!
BUT...
GAAAAH! YOU GUYS ARE HEA-VY!!!


ギッ…
ビッ…
!
PERHAPS I PICKED A WRONG CAREER.
AS ALWAYS, LIKE A NINJA WITH NO AURA.
……FU

SLACKING AT A PLACE LIKE THIS.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR ROUNDS?
I AM NOT ON DUTY TODAY.
I SEE.
AND ALSO
IT'S TO SAVE YOU THE TROUBLE OF LOOKING FOR ME LATER ON.

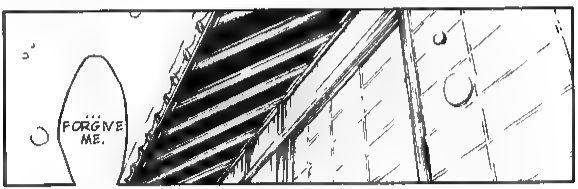

?!
THANKS FOR WORRYING ABOUT ME.
.....
.....
WITH THAT LOOK,
IT SEEMS AS IF YOU ALREADY KNOW THE TOPIC ON MY MIND
MIGHT BE WRONG BUT,
IT CONCERNS ITOU-DONO AND SUCH.

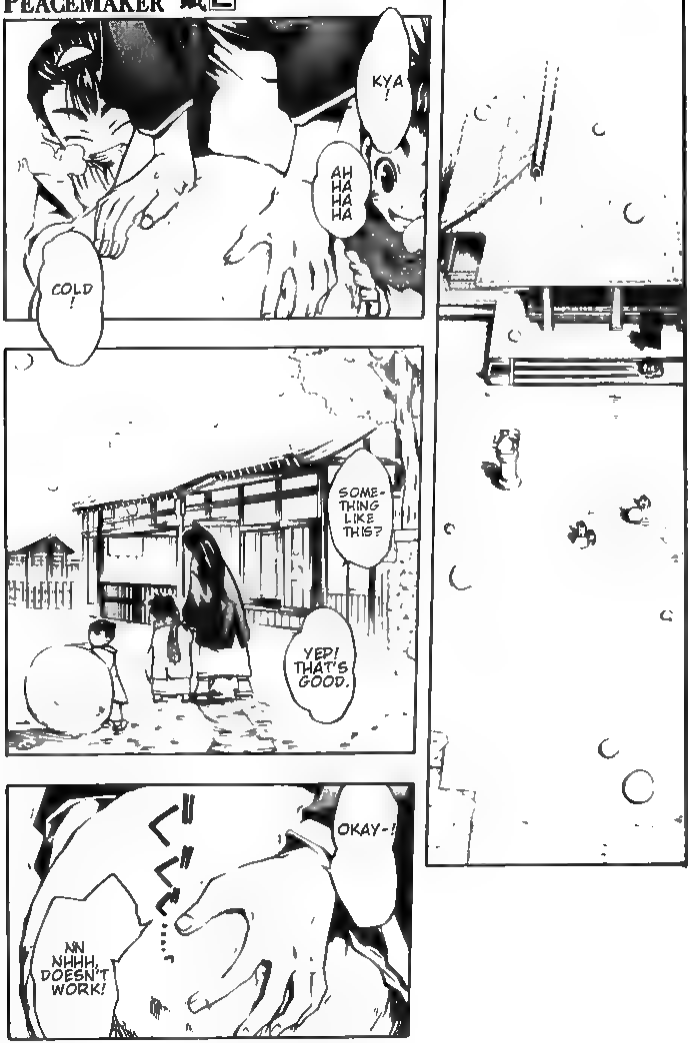
THAT'S RIGHT.
AND SO? ARE THERE ANY SUSPICIOUS MOVEMENTS?
TO HAVE A FEW DRINKS WITH EXECUTIVES FOR THE SAKE OF "COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMRADES".
BUT THE STYLE IS ONE-ON-ONE ONLY INSTEAD OF SEVERAL TOGETHER.
HE HAD INVITED ME ONE OR TWO TIMES BUT
CLEARLY IT'S NOT FOR THE PURE REASON OF HIS INTEREST IN MEN.
FOR KNOWING SO MUCH, YOU REALLY GO ON, YOU ...
... AND SO?
FROM WHERE YOU SIT, CAN YOU SEE THE BASTARD'S ATTACK?
NO ...
IT IS NOT EASY TO PREDICT EVERY SINGLE ACTION
HM ...

I AM AFRAID OF THAT WE ARE BECOMING "ITOU'S TEAM".
.....
PU
KU KU

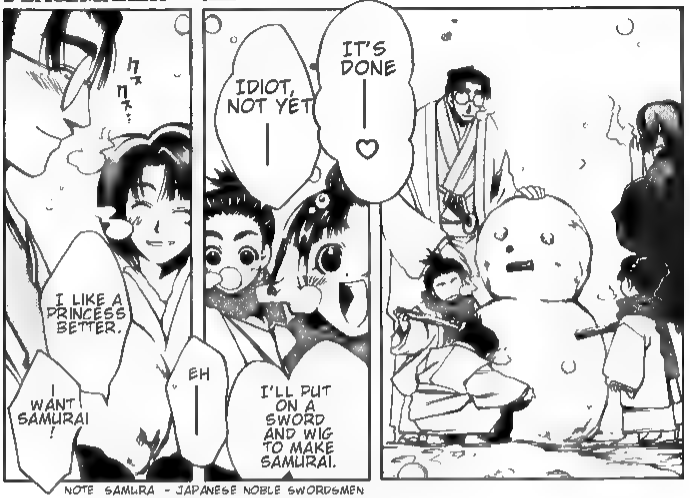
DON'T MAKE US FOOLS.
BOTH ME AND

THE REST OF YOU.


FORGIVE ME.

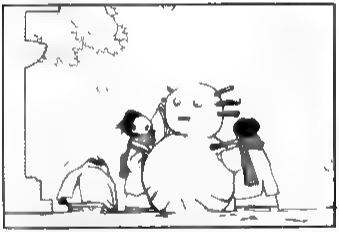

KYA
AH HA HA HA HA
COLD
SOME-THING LIKE THIS?
YEP! THAT'S GOOD.
OKAY-!
NN NHHH, DOESN'T WORK!

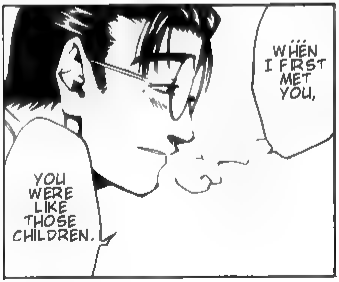
HA, HA, HA, NOT AGAIN
PLEASE GIVE US A HA-ND!
YAMANAMI-SA-AN!
YOU'VE GROWN SO MUCH, OKITA-KUN
AH HA HA
JAA, WAIT THERE OKAY?
RIGHT. ONE-TWO-!



NOTE SAMURA - JAPANESE NOBLE SWORDSMEN

THAT'S BECAUSE NO ONE WILL PLAY WITH A CERTAIN "OKITA SOUJI".
TRULY A NAME THAT I HAVE MISSED.

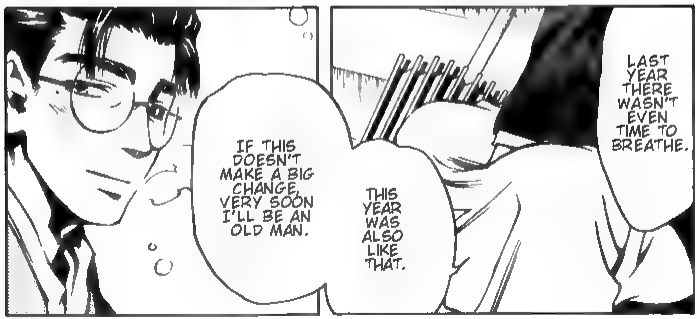



WHEN I FIRST MET YOU,
YOU WERE LIKE THOSE CHILDREN.

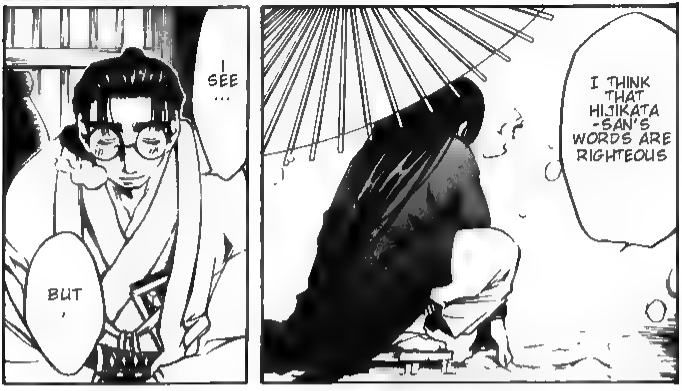
PU
I SEE.
NO ONE WILL PLAY WITH YOU HUH?
AH..!
NO, NO ONE WILL LET ME PLAY WITH THEM!

HA
THOUGH I WASN'T QUITE AS INNOCENT AND CUTE AS THESE CHILDREN NE ...

COLD
THIS YEAR IS ALMOST ENDING.
A YEAR PASSES BY VERY QUICKLY.
ESPECIALLY THE TIME THAT PASSED IN THE CAPITAL, NE.


LAST YEAR THERE WASN'T EVEN TIME TO BREATHE.
THIS YEAR WAS ALSO LIKE THAT.
IF THIS DOESN'T MAKE A BIG CHANGE, VERY SOON I'LL BE AN OLD MAN.

THOSE WHO CAN CHANGE WILL CHANGE.
EVEN IF IT'S JUST IN ONE YEAR.
ABOUT THIS AFTERNOON.

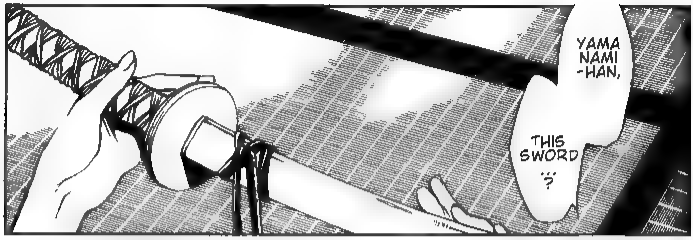


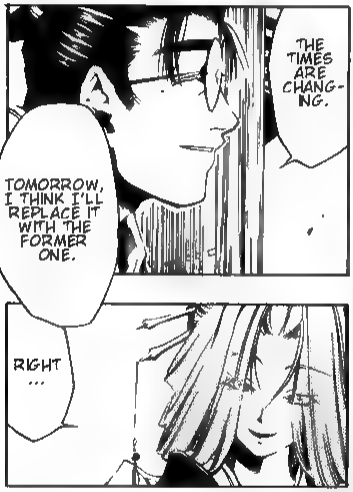
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO RIGHTEOUS .

I-DIOT. I DIDN'T SAY IT WAS "BAD".
I'M SORRY. I STARTED PREACHING AGAIN.
IF IT'S TARGETED FOR THE RESULT, A PERSON'S ADVANCES CANNOT BE CHOSEN.
FOR ME, THE END RESULT IS ALL.
IT'S JUST THAT PEOPLE CANNOT MOVE ON SIMPLY WITH A RIGHTEOUS HEART.
WHETHER MY CONSCIENCE IS INVOLVED OR NOT IS A DIFFERENT MATTER.
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU'RE GOOD AT GETTING PEOPLE TO MOVE.
BUT, EVEN THEN!

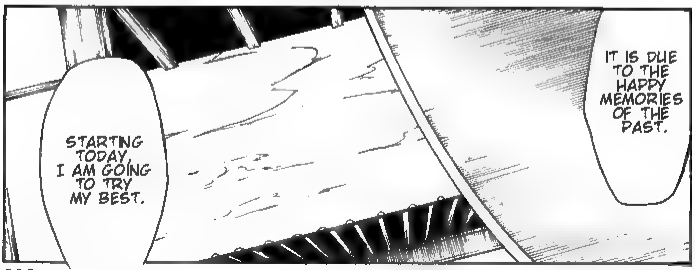
YAMANAMI -SAN!
...HMM
I'M ESCORTING THIS CHILDREN HOME OKAY!
OKAY...
WHAT HAPPENED? YOU SPACED OUT.
I?
AHH, WHAT IS IT?

NYA


YAMA NAMI -HAN,
THIS SWORD ...?


THE TIMES ARE CHANG-ING.
TOMORROW, I THINK I'LL REPLACE IT WITH THE FORMER ONE.
RIGHT ...

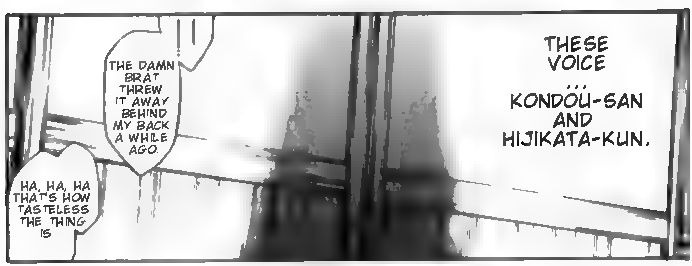
AH, THAT ?
IT'S A PATHETIC THING, ISN'T IT?


IT IS DUE TO THE HAPPY MEMORIES OF THE PAST.
STARTING TODAY I AM GOING TO TRY MY BEST.

STAYING WITH THE SHINSENGUMI IS PROBABLY STILL UNPLEASANT TO ME.
IT'S ALRIGHT AS LONG AS I STILL CAN SHARE IDEAS...
IF IT'S WHAT HE WANTS.
BA TAN
HM?
NYA

DID YOU GET LOST?
OR DO YOU BELONG HERE.
OH?

!
NYA


THESE VOICE ... KONDOU-SAN AND HIJIKATA-KUN.
THE DAMN BRAT THREW IT AWAY BEHIND MY BACK A WHILE AGO
HA, HA, HA THAT'S HOW TASTELESS THE THING IS

UM
IS IT SANNAN?
EXCU ...
THAT REALLY HURTS MY EYES.
BOTH ARE HERE TOO.
HAS TO BE TAKEN CARE EARLIER.

RI
NG
AWW, YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?

SORRY. I JUST RECALLED AN URGENT BUSINESS.
UMM ...
THE SHINSEN GUMI IS REALLY SUCH A BAD BUSINESS.
YAMA NAMI -HAN,
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
NO NO.

YAMANAMI KEISUKE DISAPPEARED.
THAT NIGHT
NOTHING HAPPENED.

To be continued...

CHAPTER 9:
VOICE

Scanner: FlFay
Translator: Aatash
Editor: Kuroneko Ninja

Source at: http://www.FlFay.net

IT HASN'T BEEN DECIDED THAT HE LEFT YET, *CENSORED* BASTARD!!
OW OW OW!!
I SAID MAYBE, "MAYBE" -!!
"MAYBE" OR NOT, DON'T SAY SUCH THINGS
IDIOT! FOOL!! STUPID SANOSUKE
GAAH!!!?
... BUT IT HAS BEEN THREE DAYS.

KONDOU-SAN, YOU DON'T HAVE TO SEND A SEARCH PARTY.
BE QUIET! WE MUSTN'T LET THE OTHERS KNOW.
THAT PERSON'S VERY SILLY, SIMPLY WALKED OFF SOMEWHERE IS ALL.
HE MIGHT RETURN TODAY OR TO-MORROW.

'CAUSE THERE IS NO REASON FOR HIM TO LEAVE.
I WONDER IF IT IS TRUE.

.....
"NO REASON FOR HIM TO LEAVE"
I WONDER IF IT IS TRUE.

TAKE THE SURVEIL-LANCE TEAM, SURROUND THE OUT-SKIRTS OF THE CAPITAL AND GATHER INFORMATION.
YES SIR.
...WHETH-ER HE RAN AWAY, WHETHER HE DIED, I DON'T KNOW BUT EITHER WAY, OUR PRIORITY IS TO FIND HIM.
DASH!!
...ANY WAY,
EVERY-ONE,

ALL WE CAN DO NOW IS
TRUST IN SANNAN.

SA-SAYA-
AH ...
O-SAYA!
.....

HERE'S A LETTER.
GIVE IT TO AKESATO-NEEHAN.
IT'S FROM THE PERSON WHO ALWAYS COMES.

CREAK...

AKESATO.

HERE
AKESATO.

I'M SORRY
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, YAMANAMI-HAN!!
I DON'T WANT YOU TO APOLO-GIZE!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
TO CALL YOU OUT SO FAR.
AHH. THAT'S RIGHT.
IF THEY SEE YOU NOW, YOU WILL HAVE TO COMMIT SEPPUKU ...!!
MY HOUSE IS STILL BEING SEARCHED BY SHIN-SENGUMI PEOPLE...
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING? WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING UP TO NOW!?

DEATH IS NEAR.
BUT NO MATTER WHAT ROAD I TAKE

WHAT HAS YAMANA-MI-HAN DONE TO THE SHIN-SENGUMI!?
WHAT IS THAT!?
FOR HAVING LEFT...

I'M SORRY FOR THE THINGS I'VE DONE TO YOU.
?

WHY DO YOU HAVE TO BE KILLED ...?!
...YES
I WONDER WHY...

EVEN THOUGH YOU CAUGHT A SHINSENGUMI MEMBER
HE DOESN'T HAVE SATISFACTORY REPORTS ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATION.
...IT WOULD'VE BEEN GOOD IF I HAD BEEN OF MORE HELP TO YOU.
!!
SFX: SHOVE
LET GO!! THAT'S NOT TRUE...
EVEN SO
!!
SFX: GRAB

YOU REALLY LOVE ME.
SOB
SOB
SOB

... THE COLORS OF YOUR HAIR AND EYES ARE SO PRETTY.
I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT
ONCE YOU HIDE IT, IT'S DULL.
...IT'S HARD TO LIVE WITH THIS LOOKS YOU KNOW?
...THAT'S TRUE.

BLUSH
.....
WAS KIND OF LOUSY YOU KNOW.
YOUR KYOTO ACCENT... THAT
I LIKE THE REAL ACCENT YOU HAVE TOO.
SFX: CHUCKLE
BU
HAHA
AHAHA-HAHA-HAHAHA
GRAB
UWA!?
OOP.
A-AH!
I LOOK TERRIBLE
DON'T I.

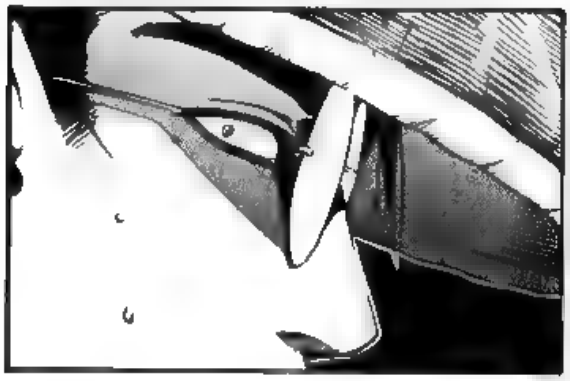
BECAUSE I'M A SHINOBI, I KNOW ROUTES THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS THAT NO ONE ELSE DOES.
WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BORDER INSPECTION STATIONS.
ONCE WE'RE IN THE MOUNTAINS, IT WILL BE EASY TO SHAKE OFF ANY PURSUERS.
HEY
WOULD YOU LIVE WITH ME?
I'M THE WORST
... FOR A GOOD MAN LIKE YOU..
I'M IN NO POSITION ...
I'M NOT A WONDERFUL WOMAN.
I LIE, I SEDUCE, I'M UNLADYLIKE...
SAY, YAMANAMI--SAN
DO YOU LOVE ME?

NE
DO YOU LOVE ME...?
WHAT-EVER YOU ARE, IT DOESN'T MATTER.
LET'S LIVE TO-GETHER.

IF I HAVE YOU
I CAN LIVE.
YAMA-NAMI--SAN.

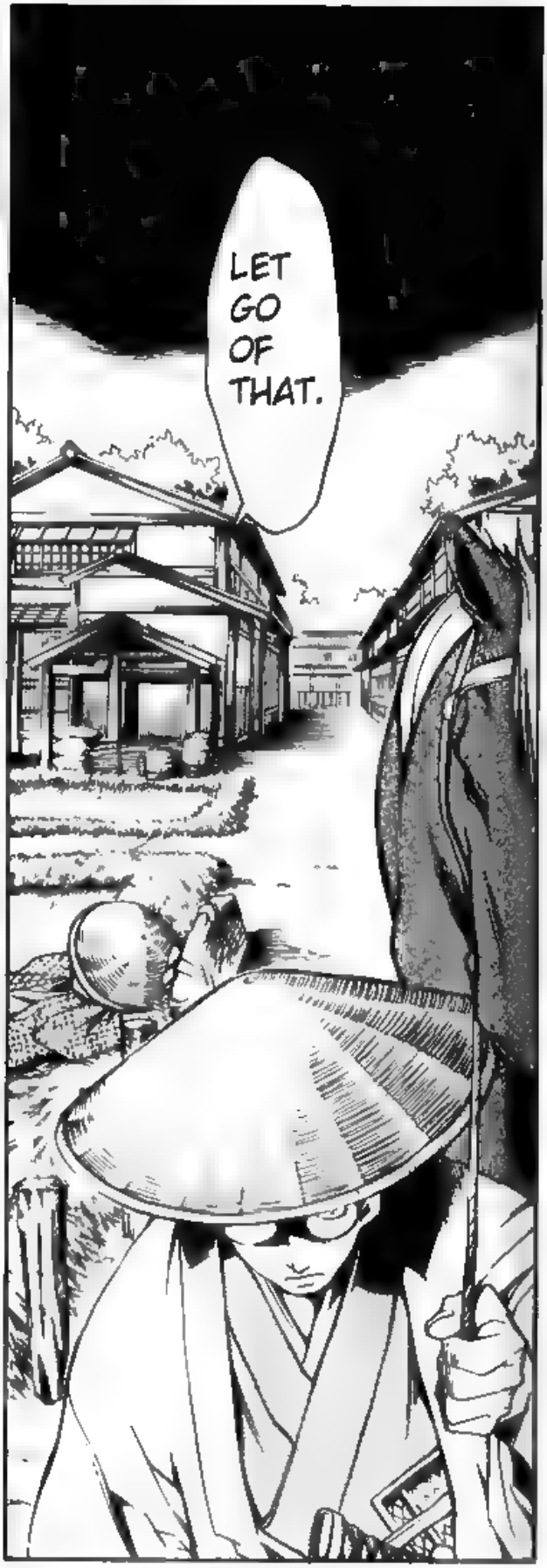
HIDE HERE FOR THREE HOURS.
I'LL PREPARE SOME TRAVEL LUGGAGE, AS MUCH AS I CAN. I'LL WAIT FOR YOU IN THAT MARKED PLACE LATER.
...BELIEVE IN ME.
I WILL WAIT FOR YOU.
IL IL IL

GULP



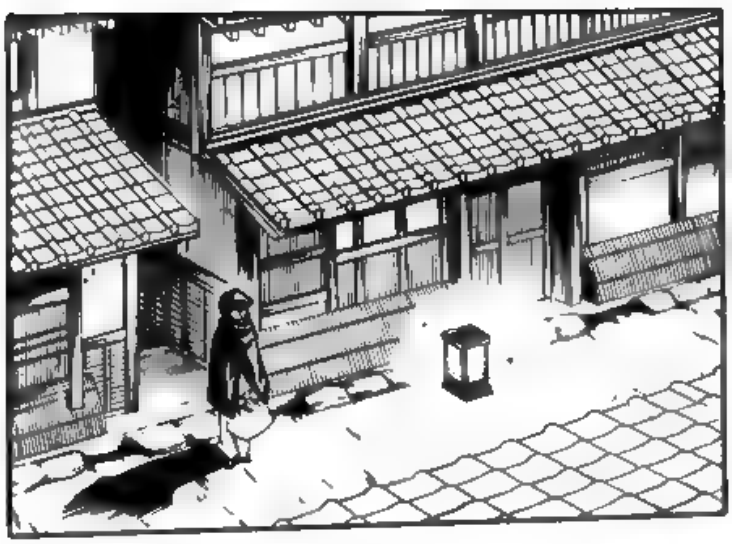
YOU, WHO ARE NOW SUSPECTED OF LEAVING THE SHINSENGUMI, HAVE BEEN SURROUNDED BY THE SURVEILLANCE TEAM.

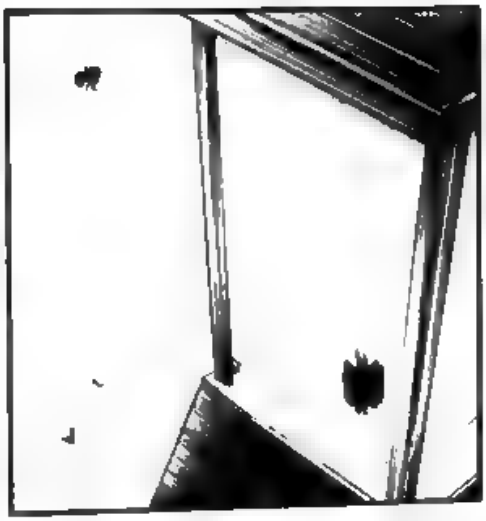
IF YOU TAKE THAT HORSE TO THE EDGE OF THE CAPITAL...
"SEPPUKU" IS INEVITABLE.


LET GO OF THAT.

SFX: RUNNING AWAY

AKESATO
...
SFX: GALLOPING



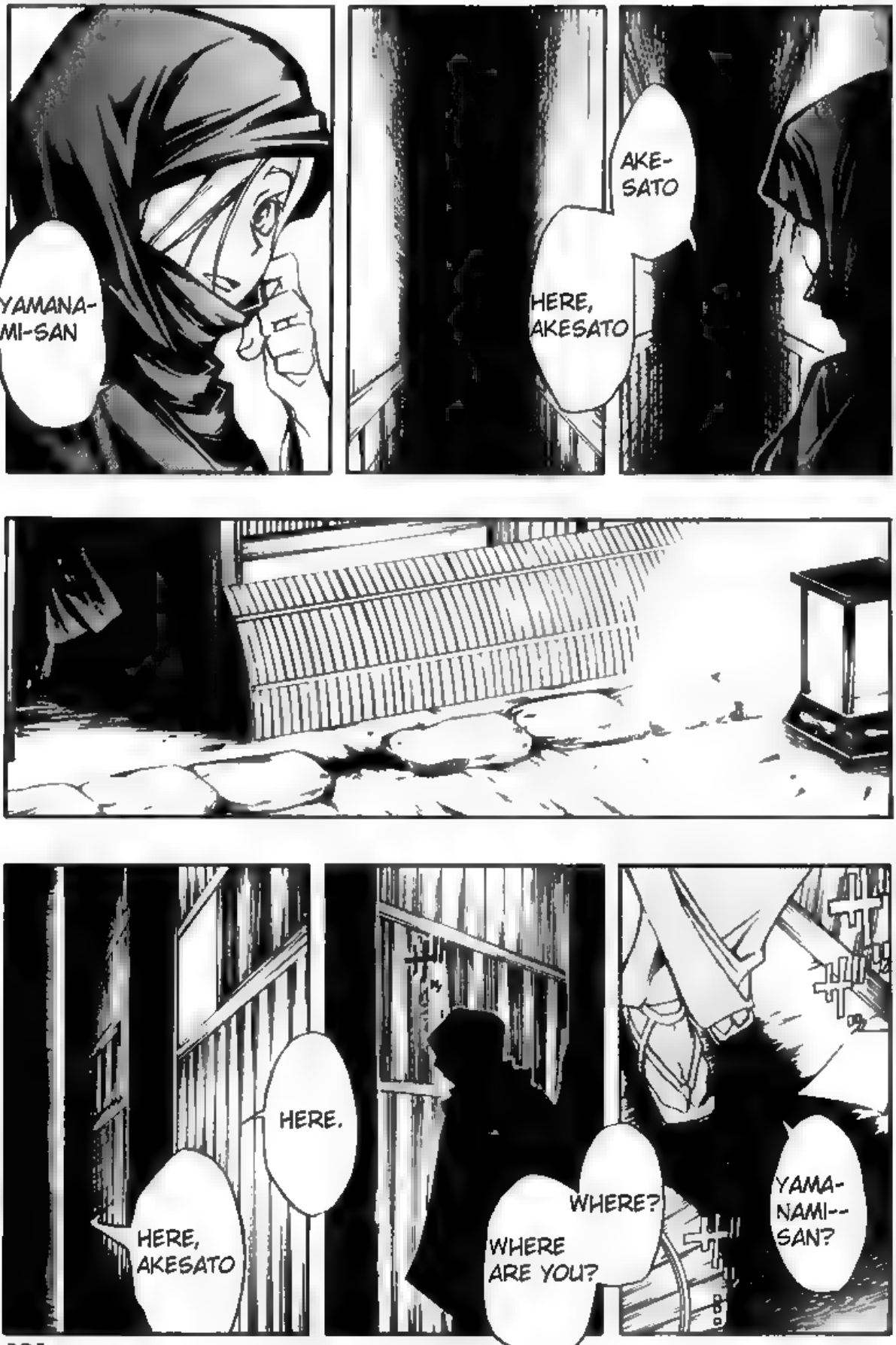


WE'LL FIND SOME WAY TO LIVE SOMEHOW.

NO
WE WILL LIVE.

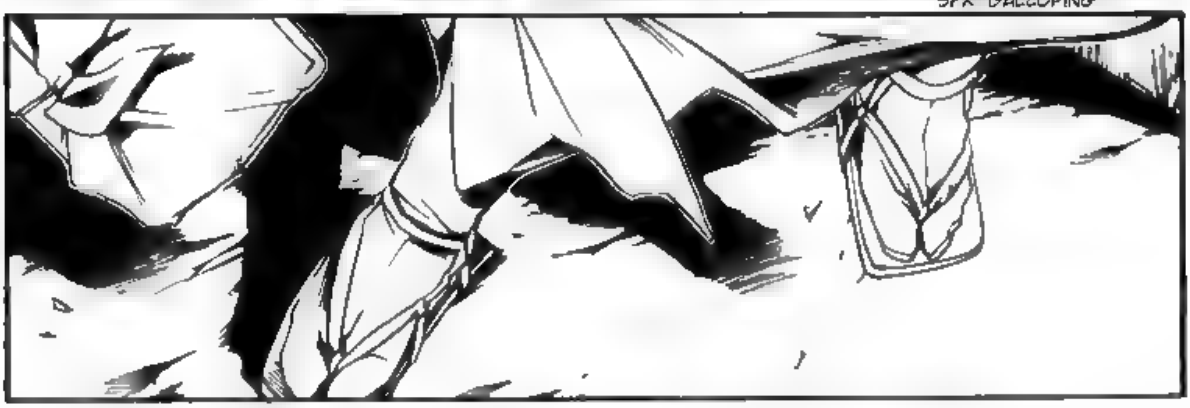
SHUFFLE

EVEN THE SHOPS ARE CLOSED.
I THOUGHT I COULD BUY A FEW USEFUL THINGS...


YAMANA-MI-SAN
AKE-SATO
HERE, AKESATO
HERE, AKESATO
HERE.
WHERE ARE YOU?
WHERE?
YAMA-NAMI--SAN?

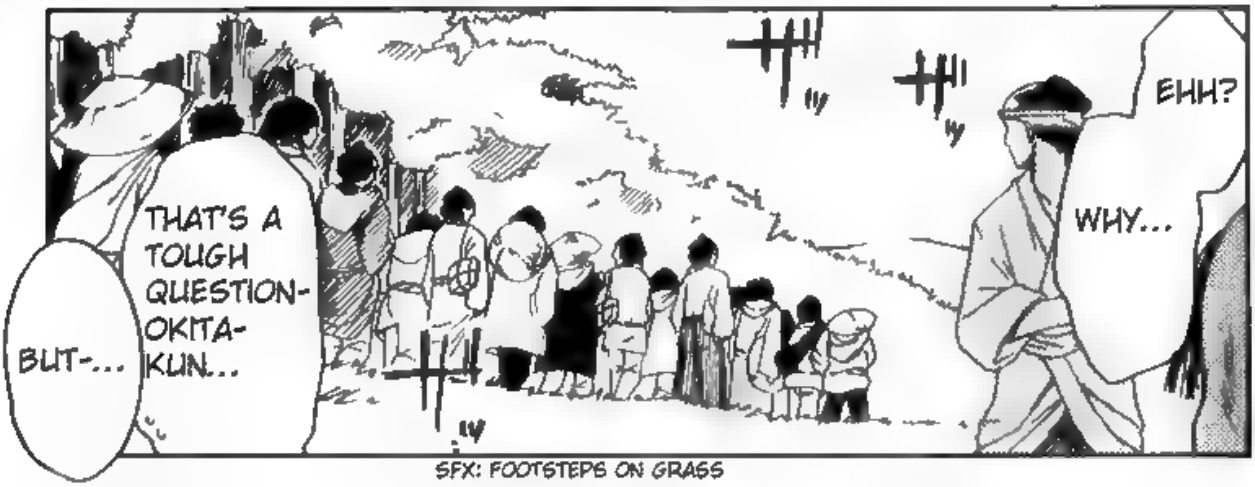
HIDING IN A CORNER IS FAR TOO...
SILLY. WHILE IT'S A GOOD IDEA
HERE.
AKESATO.
SFX: GALLOPING

SFX GALLOPING



KEIOU GAN YEAR (1865) FEBRUARY 21. YAMANAMI KEISUKE LEFT THE SHINSENGUMI.

NOTE: ROUSHIGUMI - SHINSENGUMI'S FORMER NAME



SFX: FOOTSTEPS ON GRASS

...WELL, I DON'T REALLY HAVE A REASON.
I WANTED TO GO OUT AND EXPLORE THE "OUT-SIDE".
IT'S JUST THAT, SOME-HOW
AHH... PLEASE, DON'T SAY THAT IN FRONT OF EVERY-ONE.
WHISPER
WHISPER
YAMANA-MI-SAN DOESN'T REALLY SEEM LIKE A SAMURAI YOU KNOW?

To be continued...

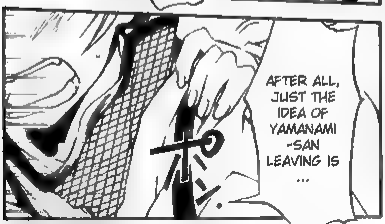
CHAPTER 10: String

第拾話 縄

だいじゅうわ　なわ

WHY WOULD YAMANAMI-SAN ... DO SUCH A ...
IT'S A LIE.

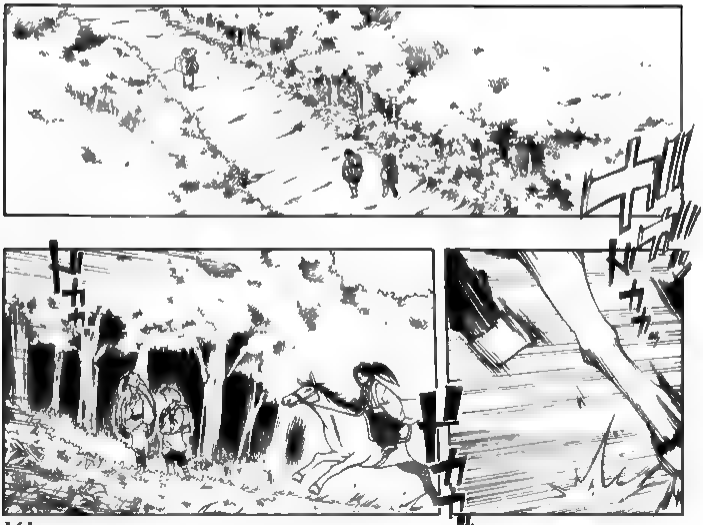
FUKUCHOU! DON'T BELIEVE HIM!
DAMN YOU SUSUMU!! SAYING SUCH RIDICULOUS THINGS!?
THAT ONE'S PRETTY DREAMY.
HE COULD'VE SEEN WRONGLY, OR ...

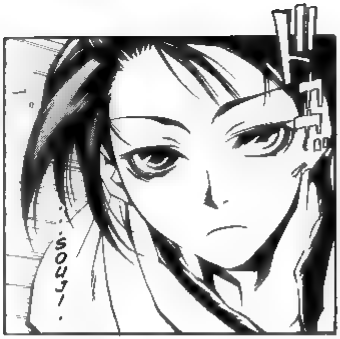

AFTER ALL, JUST THE IDEA OF YAMANAMI -SAN LEAVING IS ...

BUT, HE SAID HE LEFT BECAUSE OF URGENT BUSINESS... EVERYONE...
TETSU-KUN ...

ポ
ン
PLEASE CALM DOWN TETSU-KUN.
OKITA-SAN ...
I AM BORROWING THE FASTEST HORSE.
?!
IN THE DIRECTION OF OOTSU AM I RIGHT, YAMAZAKI-SAN ?
YES.
... SOUJI, YOU ...?
IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT.

DEFINITE -LY.
I WILL BRING HIM HOME.




SOUJI.

IN THIS TIME OF THE YEAR, THAT PLACE WILL BE CROWDED.

IF HE GETS RID OF THE HORSE AND MIXES IN THE CROWD, IT WILL BE HARD TO FIND HIM.
EVEN IF IT'S A SLOW HORSE, IT IS HARD TO TELL HOW FAR HE HAS GONE.

IF YOU CANNOT FIND HIM, DON'T STRESS YOURSELF, RETURN HOME.
... DO YOU UNDERSTAND, SOUJI.

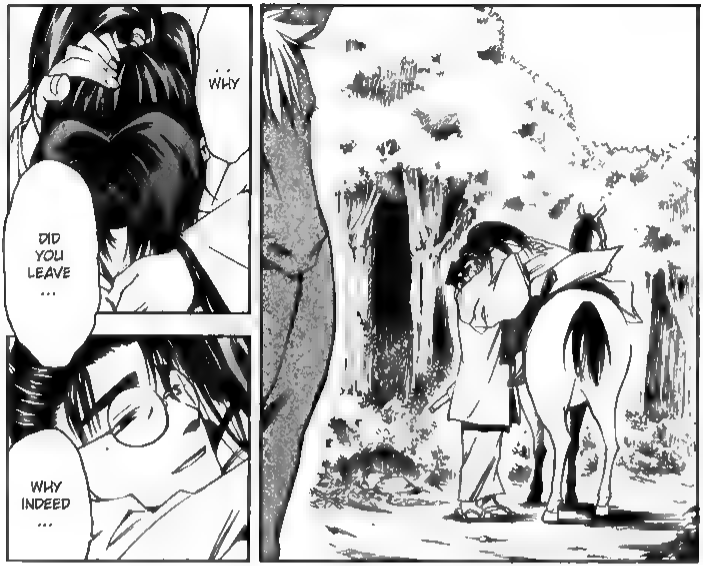
ドカッ
ドカッ
ドカッ
ドカッ
ドカッ
ドカッ

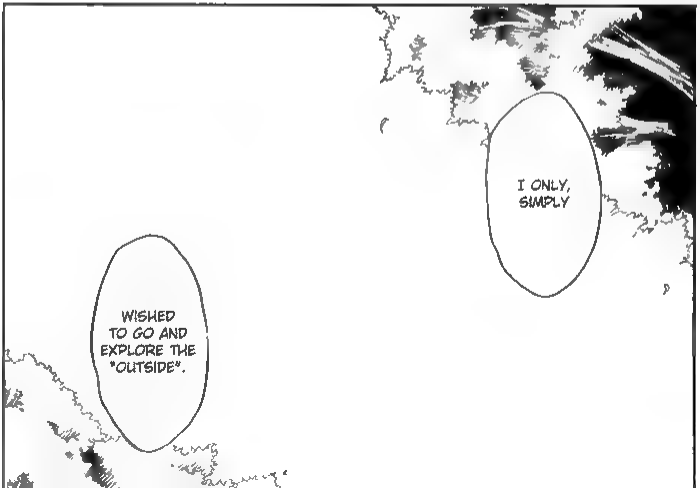
YAMANAMI-SAN.
I CAME OUT ON MY OWN.
IT'S NOT AN ORDER.
... EVEN IF I DO DRAW, THE HOPE OF MY VICTORY IS
I CANNOT DRAW MY KATANA AT YOU.
... TO THINK THEY SENT YOU.

BECAUSE I WOULD ALWAYS NO MATTER HOW FAR YOU WOULD RUN
REGARDLESS HOW MANY CROWDS YOU HIDE IN
I WOULD DEFINITELY SEEK YOU OUT. THEREFORE, I WAS THE ONE WHO WENT.
I AM SORRY FOR CAUSING SUCH TROUBLE.
SHALL WE GO?
I HAVE ALREADY PREPARED MYSELF TO ACCEPT THE PUNISHMENT.
... I SEE.
... THAT'S ALL RIGHT.

LETS GO HOME.
YOU STILL HAVE MANY THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR THE SHINSENGUMI.
...OKITA-KUN.
...WHATEVER REASON YOU THOUGHT OF HE WILL ACCEPT IT THIS TIME.
NO MATTER HOW COLD HIS EXPRESSION IS
YOU SHOULD KNOW HOW MUCH HIJIKATA-SAN NEEDS YOU.
OKITA-KUN.
YOU SHOULD KNOW HOW MUCH EVERYONE IN THE UNITS RESPECTS YOU!
..EVEN SO.
THIS

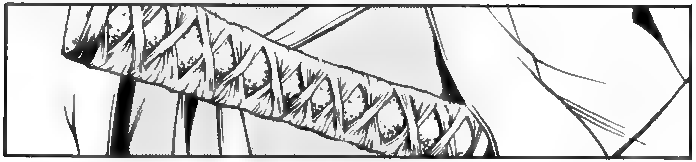
THIS MATTER IS NOT FIT FOR DESERVING SEPPUKU.
NO MATTER WHAT IT IS IT DOESN'T MATTER.
PLEASE MAKE UP AN EXCUSE ...
MAYBE IF I BEGGED ...
EVEN IF YOU WERE DEMOTED,
LIVE! AND THEN ...
OKITA-KUN.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I'M SORRY.
THANK YOU.

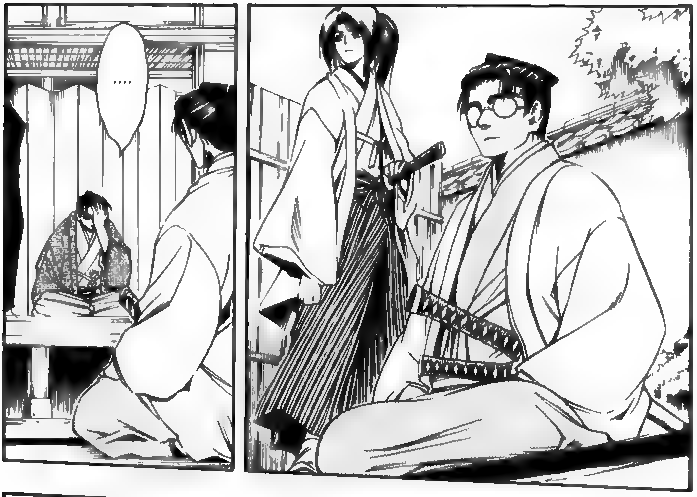

...WHY
DID YOU LEAVE ...
WHY INDEED ...


I ONLY, SIMPLY
WISHED TO GO AND EXPLORE THE "OUTSIDE".

IT'S TRUE, IT'S TRUE, HE'S BACK !
YAMANAMI -SAN !
YOU, WHERE DID YOU GO !?
EVERY-ONE'S BEEN WORRIED ...
YAMANAMI -SAAAAN
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING, YAMANAMI-SAN ...!!
WHY, WHY SUCH ...!
I AM SORRY.
... I AM SORRY, EVERYONE .....

I KNOW.
DO NOT INTERFERE.
... IT LOOKS LIKE A FAREWE... AMONG FRIENDS.
....
GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF.
IT'S BEST NOT TO WANDER NEAR THE FUKUCHOUS' ROOM.
... YOU CAN REST FROM YOUR PAGE DUTIES FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS.




....

WHY, SANNAN ...
... WHY.

.... I WONDER ?
TO LEAVE THE GROUP ...
WHAT ....!

WHAT IF I ASKED KYOKUCHOU AND FUKUCHOU TO LISTEN TO YOUR HEARTS FOR THE SOURCE OF THIS EVENT.
!?
WHA ...!?
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, SANNAN ...!?
ARE YOU
TRYING TO SAY THAT WE WERE THE ONES WHO CHASED YOU OUT ?

"CHASED" ... WELL
IF YOU CAN CONSIDER DESTROYING THOSE WHOM STAND IN YOUR WAY
THEN OF COURSE ...
... ARE YOU SERI-OUS ?
DO YOU SERIOUS-LY BELIEVE THAT ?

... THINKING OF SUCH RIDICULOUS THINGS ...
A HINDRANCE !?
... THAT YOU ARE
PERHAPS I
WAS TOO QUICK TO JUDGE ...?
... THE VOICES THAT TIME WERE SURELY THEIRS ...
BUT WHY DO THEY HAVE SUCH EXPRESSIONS ... !?

THE RESULT WILL NOT CHANGE.
... BUT NO MATTER WHAT
... THIS CASE IS TO BE KEPT CONFI-DENTIA...
THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW ARE THE SEVEN VETERANS FROM SHIEIKAN ...
IS SOMETHING WRONG ?
I DO NOT SEE ITOU-DONO AND THE OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS.
... ANYWAY
....
INCLUDING SAITO, TETSUNOSUKE-KUN, AS WELL AS THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR YOU.

PLEASE LET EVERYONE KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
THE PUNISHMENT OF FUKUCHOU YAMANAMI KEISUKE FOR LEAVING THE SHINSENGUMI
IS NOTHING BUT SEPPUKU.

....
....

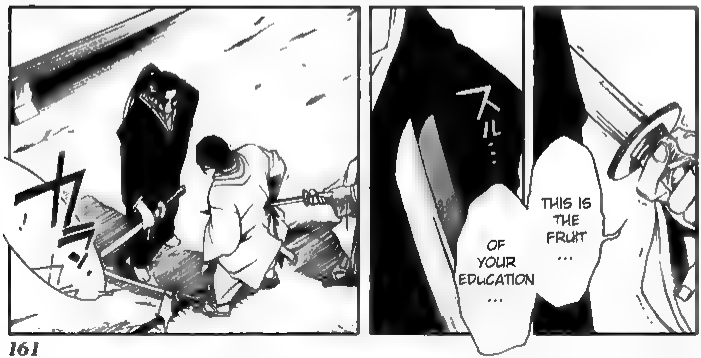
... THIS IS THE SOUL OF YOUR PAST WARRIOR SELF.
AT LEAST, TILL THE VERY END
CUT YOUR BELLY AS A WARRIOR.

HIJIKATA -KUN.
... TODAY IS FEBRUARY 23, ISN'T IT
IT IS THE DAY THAT
WE, THE ROUSHIGUMI, FIRST STEPPED INTO MIYAKO.
... WE PRAYED THAT SOMETHING SIGNIFICANT WOULD BE BORN.
FOR WHATEVER EVENTS THAT SHALL OCCUR FROM NOW
ON THIS MEMORABLE DAY

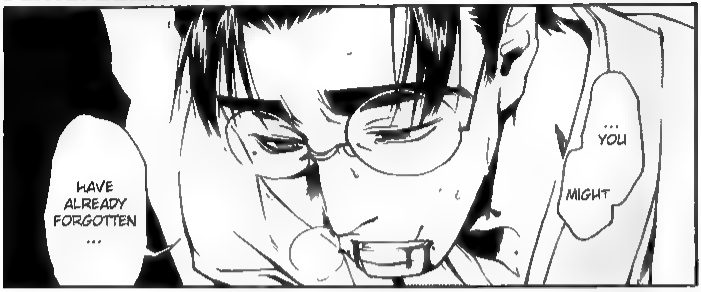
To……
Shi……!?
ガッ

....
... FUFU
SEE
... IS IT NOT TRULY A MARVELOUS FEAT ?

....
ハァ
ハァ
... THOSE WHO BEAR THEIR FANGS AT YOU ...
NO MATTER ... WHETHER THEY ARE A COMRADE OR NOT
WITHOUT A SINGLE MOMENT OF HESITATION ... CUT AND KILL.
ゴク


カラン
スル...
THIS IS THE FRUIT ...
OF YOUR EDUCATION ...

A BAMBOO ...
カラン...
SWORD ...?
GA -SHI
AA
AA ...
UU ...
カラ
よっ!


HAVE ALREADY FORGOTTEN ...
... YOU MIGHT

... YOU ... TOLD ME ... OF YOUR WISH ...
ON HINO'S ... GROUND
LONG AGO
ゴッ

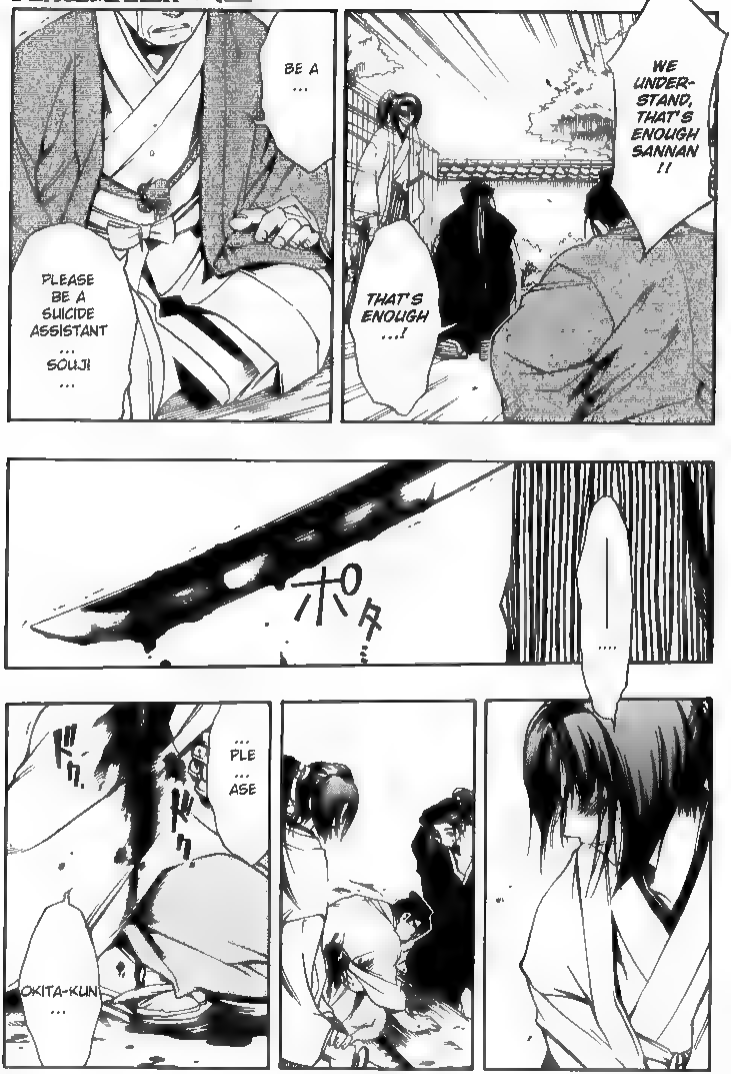
PLEASE "REPENT".

I'M SORRY, HIJIKATA -KUN ...

I'M SORRY.
UU ...

I'VE ... BEEN SO WEAK ...

I ... REALLY CAN'T STOP YOU ... FROM HATING ME MORE ...
PLEASE "REPENT" ... FROM HERE ...
DON'T ... PILE ON ...
ANY MORE "REGRETS" ...
....


BE A ...
PLEASE BE A SUICIDE ASSISTANT ... SOUJI ...
WE UNDER-STAND, THAT'S ENOUGH SANNAN !!
THAT'S ENOUGH ...!
ポタ...
.....
... PLE ... ASE
OKITA-KUN ...

IT
...
HURTS
....

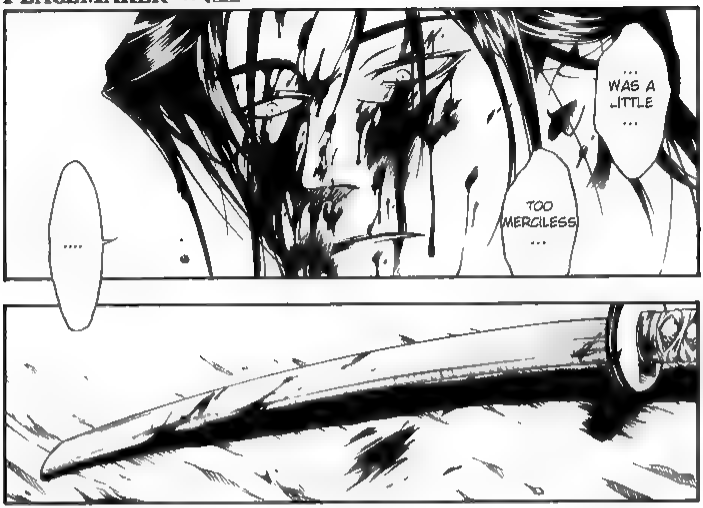
...
NAA,
YAMANAMI-SAN

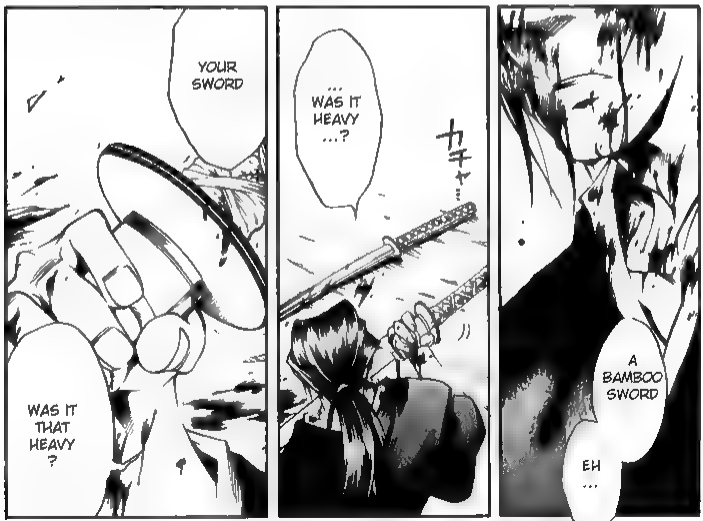
*STRING = SOME ASIAN PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT ALL FATES ARE INTERTWINED LIKE STRINGS, OR "THREADS OF FATE"

YOU.
WILL YOU GRASP MY "STRING" FOR ME ?
YEP. "STRING OF JUSTICE"
... IN OTHER WORDS
STRING ?
...?
"STRING OF HUMANITY"
THE RIGHT ONE.
... IF THE NUMBERS OF THE ROUSHIGUMI INCREASES AND WE GO TO WAR?
I CAN'T TELL WHAT EVIL THINGS I WILL DO FOR SUCCESS.
AS I'VE SAID BEFORE, TO ACHIEVE A CERTAIN RESULT, I WILL DO ANYTHING FOR IT.

BUT, EVERY TIME
JUST BEFORE I'M ABOUT TO REACH MY GOAL
I TELL MYSELF, HEY, I'VE GONE THIS FAR -!
AND I TURN AND LOOK BACK ...
... TO REGRET
IS THE ONE THING I REALLY HATE.
THAT'S WHY I USE YOUR JUST ARGUMENTS AS AN AXIS.
SO THAT I WON'T GO TOO FAR ...
LOOK, KATTSUAN DOESN'T SUSPECT ME AT ALL RIGHT ?
... THAT'S WHY.

...
PLEASE GRASP MY STRING FOR ME.
...
TOSHI.
I'M BEGGING YOU TOSHI, PLEASE CLEAN YOURSELF OFF.
SANNAN HAS GONE THROUGH "SEPPUKU" AS A WARRIOR ...
... EVEN SO, THIS ...


.... TOO MERCILESS ... ... WAS A LITTLE ...


EH ... A BAMBOO SWORD
カキャ
... WAS IT HEAVY ...?
YOUR SWORD
WAS IT THAT HEAVY ?

YAMANAMI KEISUKE
山南敬助
Eternal Sleep
慶応元年二月二十三日
永眠 KEIOU GANNEN
FEBRUARY 23

享年三十三歳
AGE AT DEATH: 33 YEARS

join us at
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ぬ
大人になーシ
鐵
PEACE MAKER.

おとアレ、体はなんて限装なんですが…。
スーツ。
リーマン関ってやつですな!!
ナニも違う。
じゃあいっそ、全員スールでどうよ?
レフコ!!
A. 新撰組じゃなくなった。
でも萌え——
スールというわけにはいかないですが、個人的に洋装が楽しみで参加で。
…こんな会議くんて女ばかりでごめんなさい!!
『私も同じよ』という方、いらっしゃいましたら結婚しましょう。気持ちだけ。(爆)
じゅ★書き逃げ!!!

いわゆるオーラばかり髪型をほめたりだとかそういう時に見える髪のはえぎわ。待ちがり。
▼セクシーポーズ?
…『はえぎわ』フェチなんて聞いた事ないよ。怖っ。
思い返せば、今まで好きになってきたマンガキャラとかってほとんどデコ出たきたら。
…本当だ…。
特にデコっぱち4名様。
みなさんもマンガ好きの方はレッツ共通点ナガし!!
思いもよらぬ良作発見★
そして、おなじ本「けだもの。」
やっぱりキャラクターデザインにも表れて…。
市村兄弟なんかいい例ですヨ…。
いっか結婚でもしちゃいなよう(笑)。
すごいぱち。
じゃあいっそ、全員オールバックでどうよ?
残念!! 萌えなかった!!
萌えてどうする……。

お買い上げありがとうございます。感謝です。
アレです。本文もトークも時間がないのでお読みくださいアホですいません。
アレです。『男女の性差』
…おなかのクスクストーク。ぽい。
別にどっちもモテてそれはそれでいいんだもんよ!!
違う。
おなたは人体、という人体のどんな所に『色気』を感じますか?
よくまぁんがのようなで手、さぶ、とかですと。
うん私もそうだ。
…私の場合、二十数年のうち自分でも『色』だったね。
「二」よ。
そう、デコ。
というか…はえぎわ。

HILO THIS IS THE EDITOR...-.-; CRYSTAL....I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THIS PAGE SAYS (I CAN'T READ JAPANESE I'M JUST AN EDITOR!) SO YEAH...ANYWAY, I JUST DECIDED TO COLOR IT BECAUSE IT'S TAKEN ME SO LONG TO EDIT THIS CHAPTER, A LITTLE GIFT, YES I KNOW MY COLORING SUCKS COMPARED TO THOSE ON INANE AND STUFF....SO PLEASE ENJOY THIS HEART-WRENCHING CHAPTER.
"STRING"

I THINK SAIZO IS THE ONE I COLORED THE BEST.... -.-;

● 大変申し訳ありません。コミックス発刊ペースあがって 私もうれしいんですが、おまけページが更にしょぼい事になっておりまして……。グス…。おまけである意味も十分!!

● さて本文。しょっぱなから アホ盛りだくさんな1本ののちは全て少リアスな展開となってしまいましたが…。いかがでしょうか? ギャグスキーさんには申し訳ない。お笑いでキャラは殺せないので!!
すっぱり分けて描くのが精いっぱい…!

● 山本さんの死に方については色々とここで語ろうとも思いましたが、何か言い訳みたいになりそうなのでやめておきます。とりあえず、やっぱり歴史をご存知の方にもちょっとビックリして頂けたら 私的には成功なのですが。
どうなのかしら…。

● では こんな走り書きで申し訳ありませんが この辺で失礼します!
次からは色々とキャラクター達が動きますので。私も楽しみですので、どうぞ またお付き合い下さい。
それでは!!

NANAE CHRONO.